

Hafa Adai!

Kilili hosts biggest veterans resource fair. **PAGE 2**

Woman allegedly stabs husband in the neck. **PAGE 3**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 71

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY APRIL 11, 2018

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

IF CW CAP IS MET WITHIN 10 DAYS

USCIS: Lottery will likely be used

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The decision whether or not to use a lottery system for giving out CW permits depends on the number of CW applications U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services receives 10 days from April 2, 2018.

According to a USCIS representative, the agency is still weighing whether or not they would use a lottery system in approving CW permits for fiscal year 2019.

"Since USCIS expects to receive

more petitions than the number of CW-1 visas available for [fiscal year] 2019, USCIS may conduct a lottery to randomly select petitions and associated beneficiaries so that the cap

See USCIS on Page 4

Marpi pool treads uncertain waters

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

With the lease of Mariana Resort & Spa ending on April 30, 2018, the future of the only public swimming pool in the CNMI is spurring concerns.

Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd., which owns Mariana Resort & Spa, has been overseeing the operations and maintenance of the facility as part of their lease agreement with the Department of Lands. All of the CNMI's swim stars practice there.

See MARPI on Page 4



Swim coach Gary de Guzman and swimming enthusiast and Suzy Kindel at the swimming pool in Marpi.

BEA CABRERA



A protest was held Monday afternoon at the San Jose and Beach Road intersection to call attention to what they term as illegal workers in the CNMI.

BEA CABRERA

Protest held vs illegal workers

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A number of protesters ranging from teens to adults gathered at the San Jose intersection along Beach Road last Monday to complain about illegal workers that they say are af-

fecting the employment chances of U.S.-eligible workers.

Speaking for the group is CNMI Horizon president Fel Lieto Kalen, who accused the Chinese business community in the CNMI of rampant illegal business and employment practices.

"We are putting up the signs to wake up our community and, especially our leaders, because we have a lot of locals who are unemployed while there's a lot of illegal Chinese workers holding jobs," he said.

"I know this because I have first-hand experience, because I have seen a lot. I've talked to these

See PROTEST on Page 4

10 controversial projects of 2017

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Switzerland-based risk management company listed the Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino among its

Top 10 most controversial projects of 2017.

The March 2018 report from Reprisk included IPR in its Top 10 list of what it termed as the "most controversial" projects of 2017. It described

itself as a research and business intelligence provider firm specializing in environmental, social, and governance and business conduct risks.

Ranked at No. 10, the IPR construction joins the likes of the Grenfell Tower in the United Kingdom,

See PROJECTS on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

China's president Xi Jinping offers the U.S. possible trade concessions.

PAGE 14



NATION

Three border states commit 1,600 national Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border.

PAGE 15



LIFE & STYLE

The lawyer for a porn actress promises a sketch of the person who threatened Stormy Daniels.

PAGE 20



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Kilili hosts biggest veterans resource fair

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

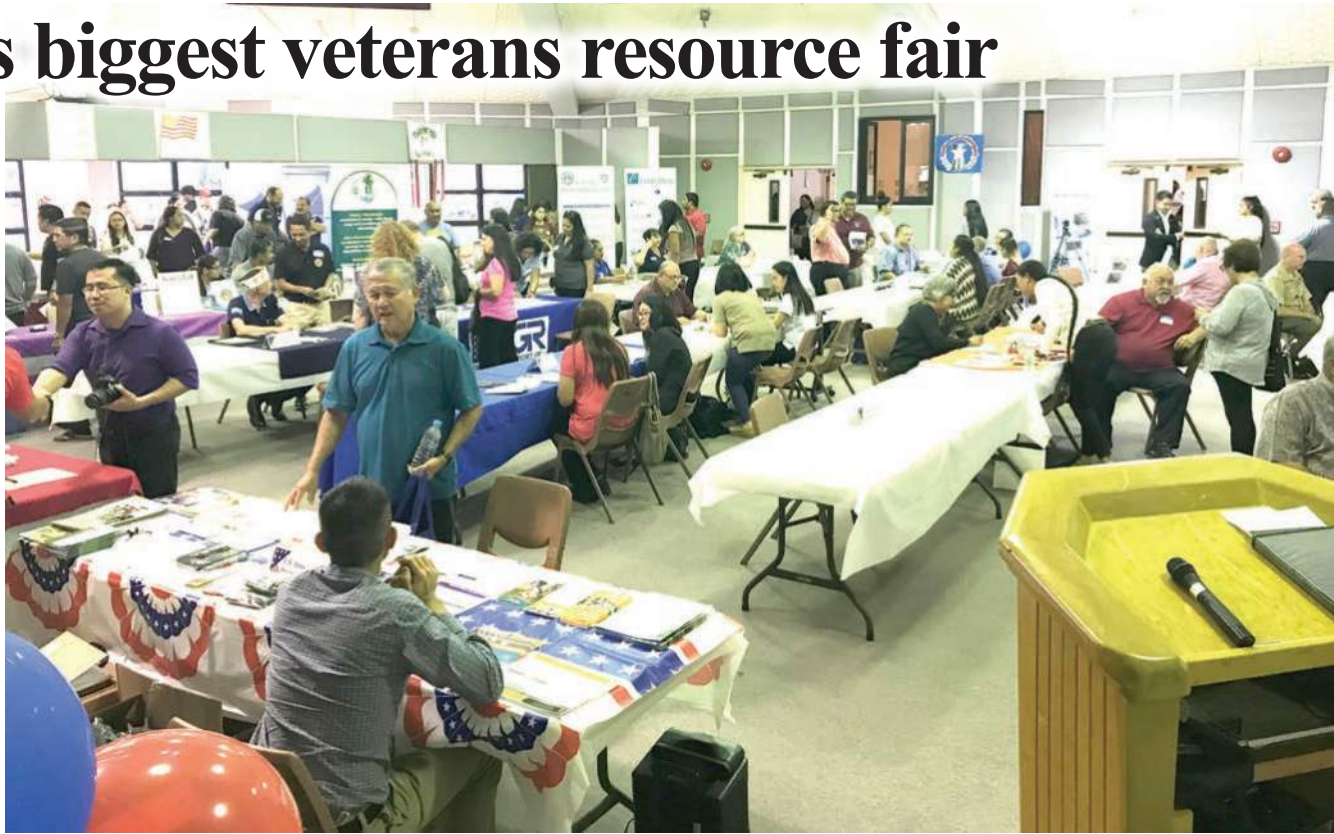
Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) hosted the second—and largest—Veterans Resource Fair last Thursday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, with over 42 local and private agencies offering their services to CNMI veterans.

According to Sablan, since he started his first term as a delegate, he has always been an advocate of bringing to the CNMI the appropriate care for all veterans.

Because the CNMI does not have an official veterans center, Sablan said the fair would serve that purpose. “This is initially what a vet center does...we would have a place where different providers could come to the vet center on certain times.”

Sablan said he is happy to witness that the fair has grown in size, with over 50 veterans attending and over 40 service providers present. He feels, however, that there is still room to improve.

“We started on our own last



Veterans avail of the service provided at the annual Veterans Resource Fair last Thursday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

year. We had our first resource fair and it was much smaller. This year, the response was awesome and growing, both in terms of veterans and providers...but we're far from being satisfied with the services our veterans are getting,” he said.

The concept of the fair was

for veterans to approach any provider and either get immediate assistance, or obtain information on how to seek the services they need.

Sablan said the fair is a step in the right direction toward the establishment of an actual veterans clinic.

“Ultimately, I would want a clinic here in the Marianas but we have to take small steps but compared to what it was when I first came in, it's really coming to be a huge difference,” he said.

The providers with stations at the Veterans Resource Fair

were the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter, Bank of Guam, Brabu Pharmacy, CNMI Department of Labor, CNMI Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, CNMI Small Business Development Center, Commonwealth Development Authority, Commonwealth

Healthcare Corp., Community Guidance Center, COTA Call-a-Ride Program, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Eucon Medical Health Service, Guam Veteran Center, Hardt Eye Clinic, Health Care Specialties, Marianas Visiting Nurses, Pacific Sleep Center, Kagman Community Health Center, Karidat Social Services, Marianas Eye Institute, Marianas Health, Marianas Medical Center, Marine Corps Activity Guam, Medical Associates of the Pacific, Medquest Medical Supply, Micronesian Legal Services, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., Northern Marianas Trade Institute, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, PHI Pharmacy, Public School Systems, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Saipan Mayor's Office, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, U.S. Army Reserve Family Program, Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration, Veterans of Foreign Wars Saipan Post 3457, and West Care Pacific Islands.

The Best Gaming Club in Saipan



is proud to announce its

APRIL



PLAYER PROMOTION

With over \$14,000 in cash and prizes to be won including a chance to win a \$5,000 cash prize on the lucky wheel! See venue for details!

Come play today, you could be the next big winner!

Location: Middle Road (next to McDonald's) • 24 hours a day • 7 days a week

All Walkers who raise \$75.00 on their pledge form



Will receive a Free

- ➡ Pass to the new PIC Waterpark
- ➡ F'real smoothie or shake
- ➡ McDonald's \$5 Arch Card
- ➡ Free Drink Card from The Shack



American Red Cross

32nd Annual Walkathon

Saturday April 14th, 2018

For more information on this promotion, please contact your school Walkathon coordinator or the Red Cross Chapter office at 234-3459

Woman allegedly stabs husband in the neck

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman allegedly stabbed her common-law husband in the nape during a drinking session with a neighbor at

their home in Chalan Laulau last week.

The victim, Biro Hamo, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment of a two-inch deep puncture wound on the neck. The

wound was about an inch in length. He was later released as an outpatient, police said.

The common-law-wife, Ana Nepaial Mettao, 55, was arrested at the scene for assault with a dangerous weapon, ag-

gravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing last Friday afternoon, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$25,000 cash bail and set the preliminary

hearing for April 13 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Heather Zona was appointed as counsel for Mettao. Assistant attorney general Frances Demapan appeared for the government.

A police officer was dispatched to a disturbance call at Mettao's residence in Chalan Laulau last Wednesday, April 4, at 10:46pm. The responding officer arrived at the scene and found out that it was a stabbing incident.

At CHC, where Hamo was taken by emergency medical technicians, he told police that he had been drinking with Mettao and a male neighbor at their house since 11am that day.

He said Mettao and their neighbor began arguing so he separated them. He said he took their neighbor out of the kitchen and escorted him outside the house.

On his way back to the kitchen, Mettao stood in the middle of the doorway and then stabbed him with a knife once behind his neck.

The victim said he immediately felt dizzy so he sat under a mango tree while applying pressure to his wound until the police arrived.

NMC Charter Day this Friday



NMC

NMC's Charter Day Planning Committee is reminding community members that Charter Day is this Friday, April 13, 2018, at NMC's south field in As Terlaje, from 4pm-10pm.

Northern Marianas College's Charter Day Planning Committee is reminding the island community that the Charter Day celebration will take place this Friday, April 13, at the NMC south field in As Terlaje.

The festivities will kick off at 4pm and will continue until 10pm.

"Charter Day is one of the most exciting events here in the CNMI," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "It gives our college the opportunity to engage with the community, showcase various NMC programs and services, and serves as a great opportunity to feature local artists, school clubs, and community organizations."

"We're excited to welcome the island community to our campus on Friday," said Charter Day Planning Committee chair Alexis Cabrera.

The event will feature an array of entertainment and competitions, including the Proa Factor Talent Competition, throughout the celebration. Delicious food, drinks, and

games will also be offered for sale by many vendors.

Agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations are invited to participate by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, game booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

As part of its commitment to promote healthier health habits, sugary drinks will not be sold at Charter Day. This includes sodas or other drinks with high sugar content. Water and coconut (in nut) will be sold.

The deadline to submit applications for booth space and to participate in the Charter Day Car Show is today, April 11. Space for vendors and the car show are limited so applications should be submitted prior to the deadline. The booth fee is \$150 for businesses and organizations and \$75 for nonprofit organizations. Registration for the car show is free. For more information about registration or the Charter Day celebration visit www.marianas.edu or email charter.day@marianas.edu. (NMC)

ARMATECH



**Elevator Services
and Maintenance**

Tel: (670) 234-8895 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Costa

Terrace Restaurant

Treat Yourself to our Delicious Daily Lunch Buffet at ARC's Costa Terrace Restaurant, where you'll enjoy a different cuisine each day!

Monday CHINESE & KOREAN CUISINE *Featuring our Samgyeopsal Station*

Tuesday SOUTHEAST ASIAN CUISINE *Featuring our Fresh Pho Station*

Wednesday INTERNATIONAL CUISINE *Featuring our Barbeque Skewer Station*

Thursday LOCAL CHAMOLINIAN CUISINE *Featuring our Barbeque Station*

Friday JAPANESE & HAWAIIAN CUISINE *Featuring our Tempura Station*

Saturday INTERNATIONAL CUISINE *Featuring our Quesadilla & Taco Station*



AQUA RESORT CLUB

Saipan

Open Daily from 11:00am - 2:00pm

\$22.00 per adult | \$11.00 per child

Local Discount Available!

For Reservations please call (670) 322-1234
or visit www.aquaresortsaipan.com

Flight instructor sues CPA for \$1M

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A flight instructor is suing the Commonwealth Ports Authority for \$1 million for requiring him to post a \$10-million general liability

insurance in 2011.

Nishio, who filed the lawsuit yesterday *pro se* or without a lawyer, is suing CPA for negligence. He asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold CPA liable to pay him \$1 million in compensatory dam-

ages plus court costs.

Nishio said that CPA required him on July 11, 2011, to post \$10-million insurance for any flight operation.

Nishio complained about this with CPA on March 23, 2013. He also complained to the Fed-

eral Aviation Administration.

On Nov. 23, 2016, Byron Huffman, the FAA Office of Airport Compliance and Management Analysis acting director, deemed CPA's requirement of \$10 million insurance to be unreasonable

and unjustly discriminatory of airplanes that operate at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Huffman directed CPA to reevaluate its rules pertaining to aircraft liability insurance requirements to differentiate between general aviation and commercial air

transportation operators.

Nishio was part-owner of the former Saipan Flight Academy. He has been performing flight instruction on Saipan since 1992. Saipan Flight Academy used to charter air services and sightseeing tours, but those services have since been halted.

MARPI

From Page 1

All swim groups in the CNMI do laps there. Yet the future of that pool is now in uncharted waters when, in 2015, DPL put out a request for proposal for the Mariana Resort property and Best Sunshine Inc. was the lone bidder.

To date, DPL and BSI are still under negotiations about taking over Kan Pacific Ltd.'s lease.

"What happens when the day of the lease ends? If BSI [does] not pick...up the lease, the next day, we can't just leave the swimming pool facility here," said Suzy Kindel, a swimming enthusiast and volunteer.

"My whole concern more than the lease negotiations that is going on is the continued existence and operations of the only community swimming pool on island. People from age 5 to 70 utilize and love this facility and if they close it down, the community loses," she added.

William Retardo, the executive chef of Mariana Resort & Spa and currently its general

manager, said that no statement can be given at the moment.

"There is still no word from our lawyers as negotiations about the lease are still up in the air," he added.

According to Kindel, the pool is old and maintaining it is tough. But even with those challenges, it has hosted many events and people continue to benefit from it, whether they use it for fun, exercise, or to prepare for a competition.

"The pool is being maximized by the community and it could be more. The Saipan Swimming Federation sends three to four kids and a coach to the World's and other Pacific Games and Micronesian Games to join competitions and represent our island and they get medals. Eddie Johnson is a lifeguard, instructor and trainor and he uses the pool periodically as part of his lifeguard training or renewal of certificates," she said.

"We have the Saipan Swim Club and the Tsunami Swim club who are training children for competitions. Emma Perez offers free swimming lessons for adults. Local and foreign athletes train here

for Xterra and Tagaman and plans of hosting the 2021 [Pacific] Mini Games is also in the pipeline," she added.

Emma Perez, the head coach for a 500 Sails Program called Dolphin Club Saipan, said that the pool gives the community a venue to learn how to swim and is a needed part for the cultural revival of sailing traditional Chamorro and Carolinian canoes. That's on top of helping keep the community healthy.

"As 500 Sails continues its work to get people in and on the water, the pool in Marpi plays an important part and can play an even more important part over time. Since the inception of the free classes we teach, we have had almost 100 classes in the pool, with an average of 12 students per class and a total of almost 1,000 individual learning hours," she said.

"Many of our swimmers are now competent distance swimmers and have begun teaching others as part of our program expansion... 27 percent of our most current registrants are Chamorro or Carolinian. This

percentage continues to grow, helping to increase health outcomes for an at-risk population," she added.

Sally Yntema, an adjunct instructor at the Northern Marianas College, goes to the pool two or three times week during lunch hour and swims for exercise.

"It's a great way to spend the afternoon for an hour. It's nice to have a full 50-meter pool and it's definitely a nice place to get a work out," she said.

"This pool is one of the major resource for the community. That will be awful if this pool disappears as it serves the youth and swim teams and our island gets to hold international swim meet so I don't know what we would do without this pool," she added.

Kindel fears that if Kan Pacific closes, the pool will also close down. "The lifeguards are employees of Kan Pacific Ltd. and [the company] is paying for the maintenance of the pool. ...The ocean is not the perfect alternative because it is weather- and tide-dependent. ...If Kan Pacific's lease gets turned down, somebody should step up and it keep it going."

PROJECTS

From Page 1

China's Ctrip Day Care Center, Germany and Russia's Nord Stream 2 Gas Pipeline, South Korea's Changwon Jinhae Shipyard, and more.

IPR is the only U.S.-located project on the list.

Saipan Tribune attempted to obtain comments from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the mother company of the IPR, but it did not respond.

Reprisk does business with private entities such as Bank of America, Citigroup, Deloitte, Deutsche Bank, Australian Super, Barclays, and more.

The Reprisk report cited poor employment conditions; occupational health and safety issues; human rights abuses and corporate complicity; and supply chain issues as their top environmental, social, and governance issues, also known as ESG issues.

The report noted the Federal Bureau of Investigation's involvement with IPI, which Reprisk said was "prompted by the death of a worker who fell from a scaffold on a construction site."

The worker was an employee of an IPR contractor.

"The investigations revealed that the workers, who had been lured by promises of high wages and 'green card' that allows the holder to be a permanent U.S. resident, were made to endure 12-hour shifts in the tropical heat," the report stated. "Some workers claimed that they had been paid less than originally promised, while others claimed that they were owed wages by Sino Great Wall International Engineering," the report added.

The Reprisk report also stated that two employees of MCC International, a "local affiliate of the Chinese state-owned company China Metallurgical Group Corp., which in turn is a subsidiary of China Minmetals Corp.," was charged with illegally harboring and employing migrant workers.

The report added that the president and director of Beilida as well as an employee of Marianas Enterprises were also charged.

Philip Aeby, chief executive officer of Reprisk, said the company's ESG Risk Platform covers over 25,000

projects "that are linked to ESG and business conduct risk incidents. This number increases daily as new risk incidents are captured and analyzed."

"Four of the projects included in the report were affected by deadly accidents, which posed reputational, compliance, and financial risks for companies concerned," Aeby wrote in the report's foreword. "A further two projects were linked to physical abuses, one against children and other against detainees in a detention center. The remaining four projects were linked to issues such as bribery, terrorism, funding, impacts on protected areas, and the illegal transportation of endangered species," he added.

While the report noted several key points about IPR's construction, it failed to include in its report that several of the contractors involved with IPI on the construction of the hotel resort reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Labor, amounting to \$13.9 million. The companies involved are MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., Beilida New Materials System Engineering Co. Ltd., Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, and Sino Great Wall International Engineering Co. LLC.

Also, the report failed to recognize that MCC International is no longer involved with IPI on the construction of the casino.

According to an IPI executive, he previously reported to the Commonwealth Casino Commission that IPI was already discussing a contract agreement with their now main contractor, Guam-based Pacific Rim Constructors. The contract was finalized shortly after his report to the casino commission.

Since then, IPI was able to secure over 1,500 H-2B visas, which is slowly starting to be transported into the CNMI to resume the construction of IPR with the help of Pacific Rim. The same IPI executive reported that most of the approved applicants originated from the Philippines or Taiwan.

Click on <https://www.reprisk.com/content/5-publications/1-special-reports/1-most-controversial-projects-of-2017/reprisk-most-controversial-projects-of-2017-report.pdf> to view the whole report.

USCIS

From Page 1

is not exceeded. The lottery would give employers the fairest opportunity to request workers, particularly with the possibility of mail delays from the CNMI," said the USCIS representative.

In response to a *Saipan Tribune* inquiry, USCIS said the total number of beneficiaries in the petitions received after 10 days is a major deciding factor for the lottery.

Also included in *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry was how many of the 4,999 CW slots

for fiscal year 2019 have already been filled. USCIS did not respond.

"USCIS will count the total number of beneficiaries in the petitions received after 10 business days to determine if a lottery is needed. If the cap is met after those initial 10 days, a lottery may still need to be conducted with the petitions received on the last day before the cap was met. USCIS will announce when the cap is met and whether a lottery has been conducted," the USCIS statement added.

According to USCIS, the agency would count the total number of beneficiaries

in the petitions received after 10 business days. If the number of petitions received within that period exceeds the cap, then USCIS would hold a lottery.

"We will count the number of beneficiaries included in each randomly selected petition in the order in which they were selected and continue selecting petitions until the total number of beneficiaries meets the cap. We will reject all petitions that were not selected, as well as any petitions received after the cap has been reached. We will monitor the number of petitions received and notify the public when

the CW-1 cap has been met," the statement said.

The 12,999 CW cap since fiscal year 2016 to date has been maxed out. While announced back in Oct. 22, 2015, the CW cap for fiscal year 2016 maxed out on May 5, 2016. The fiscal year 2017 CW cap of 12,998 was announced a little before October 2016 and was maxed out on Oct. 14, 2016. The fiscal year 2018 CW cap of 9,998 was announced in late November 2017, and was maxed out even before USCIS was able to announce the final cap number, according to a previous USCIS communication.

PROTEST

From Page 1

people and have been in their barracks. They are here and illegally working," he added.

A report by the Department of Commerce and its Central Statistics Division said that, based on a 2016 household expenditure survey, the estimated number of U.S. citizens and green-card holders defined as unemployed represents about 7.5 percent of the current labor

force, which includes workers with CW-1 visas. This 7.5 percent is equal to about 1,800 unemployed U.S. citizens.

"We have competition and this competition should not have been here in the first place because they are here illegally. Some of them are not tourists and some of them don't have CWs and they are working," Kalen said.

"That's not good and we have a lot of unemployed locals here. Hire the locals first because our percentage of

employed locals is very low. We want them [businesses] to come here and as per the law, they are required to hire locals too," he added.

Kalen said he has spoken to federal and local authorities and was told that the illegal workers cannot be detected or apprehended unless they commit a crime.

"What really [bothers me] is that authorities have told me that they know of the presence and activities of these illegal workers but they cannot come

in and arrest [them] unless they commit a crime," he said.

"...they are already committing a crime by working illegally [here], but again [I was] told that unless they are arrested for a crime, that is the only time that authorities can run after them," he added.

Kalen said their next stop is the Legislature.

"We plan to approach both CNMI and federal authorities. ...The CNMI needs legal business investors that follow CNMI laws."

Charges vs man accused of sex abuse dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Charges against a 49-year-old man accused of sexually abusing two minors were dismissed without prejudice on Monday, which means the Office of the Attorney General may re-file the case against Miguel Cecilio Arrozal in the future.

Superior Court
Camacho

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho then vacated the jury trial set for April 23, 2018.

Camacho exonerated any bail that Arrozal originally posted and issued an order for Arrozal's release from custody yesterday.

Camacho noted that Arrozal has been in custody for over eight months.

"The jury summons have already been served, and two weeks prior to jury trial, the case is now dismissed," the judge pointed out.

Assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio and assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, counsel for the government and Arrozal respectively, jointly asked the court for the dismissal of the case.

"For good cause, the Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice to dismiss the case without prejudice," according to the stipulation signed by Tenorio and Dominski.

The parties did not specify the reason/s in their stipulation to dismiss.

At the second preliminary hearing in July 2017, Camacho found probable cause to charge Arrozal with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and one count of disturbing the peace.

Camacho, however, found no probable cause to believe that the other count of disturbing the peace was committed as there was no testimony by the witness on the elements of that offense.

The judge dismissed without prejudice the second count of disturbing the peace. The OAG subsequently re-filed the charges.

At the first preliminary hearing held a week before the second preliminary hearing,

Camacho found no probable cause as to all charges against the defendant.

Camacho said Tenorio

failed to ask the witness in the case any questions as to two counts of disturbing the peace.

As to two counts of sexual

abuse of a minor in the second degree charges, Camacho said Tenorio also failed to ask the witness in the case any ques-

tions as to the identification of Arrozal and his age.

Arrozal was accused of sexually abusing an 8-year-old

girl and a 10-year-old girl between May 1, 2017, and June 3, 2017 on Saipan. He pleaded not guilty.



QUALITY PRE-OWNED





Julie Manglona
Sales Consultant
Visit or call **234-5562**

Check out our full used car listing at
www.joetenmotorsaipan.com or visit us today

2017 KIA SPORTAGE SX TURBO STOCK # H7046774 Drivetrain: FWD Engine: 2.0 LITER Transmission: Automatic Est. Mileage: 12,708 Color: BLUE \$28,995	2015 NISSAN MURANO SL STOCK # FN223708 Drivetrain: AWD Engine: V6, 3.5 Liter Trans: Automatic, Xtronic CVT Est. Mileage: 34,988 Color: BLUE \$29,995			
2011 FORD FIESTA S STOCK # BM198244 FWD, 1.6 L4 SFI DOHC, Automatic, 6-Spd w/OD, Mileage: 45,488 \$6,995	2014 FORD FIESTA SE STOCK # EM124755 FWD, 1.6 Liter TiVCT, AUTO, Mileage: 36,950 \$10,995	2016 KIA RIO LX STOCK # G6676473 FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.6 Liter, Automatic, 6-Spd w/OD, Mileage: 14,208 \$13,295	2016 KIA SOUL LX STOCK # G7360903 FWD, 1.6 L4, AUTO, Mileage: 19188 \$13,995	2016 KIA SOUL STOCK # G7870037 FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.6 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd Sportmatic, Mileage: 18,363 \$14,495
2013 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING SPORT STOCK # D0100198 FWD, 2.0 LTR 4 CYL, 6 SPEED Automatic, Mileage: 44,350 \$15,995	2013 NISSAN MURANO SV STOCK # DW202670 FWD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT Est. Mileage: 60,291 \$16,995	2013 FORD E-350 XL 15 PAX STOCK # DDA09653 RWD, V8, 5.4 Liter FLEX FUEL, Automatic, 4-Spd w/OD, Mileage: 105,018 \$16,995	2016 KIA SOUL STOCK # G7384823 FWD, 2.0 LTR DOHC, Automatic, Mileage: 36,970 \$17,995	2016 KIA SPORTAGE LX STOCK # G7831684 FWD, 4-Cyl, GDI, 2.4 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd H-Matic, Mileage: 26,820 \$17,995
2012 NISSAN XTERRA S STOCK # GC527339 4WD, 4.0 Liter, Automatic, Mileage: 41,328 \$18,995	2016 KIA SOUL EX STOCK # G7313155 FWD, 2.0 L DOHC 16 valves, Automatic, Mileage: 23,540 \$18,995	2016 KIA SOUL EX STOCK # G7379546 FWD, 2.0 LTR DOHC, Automatic, Mileage: 22,050 \$18,995	2015 NISSAN ALTIMA S STOCK # FC469947 FWD Engine: 2.5 L, Automatic Mileage: 3,618 \$18,995	2013 NISSAN PATHFINDER STOCK # DC676044 4WD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT Mileage: 23,188 \$21,995
2013 NISSAN PATHFINDER SV STOCK # DC676779 4WD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT Mileage: 29,888 \$21,995	2013 NISSAN MAXIMA SV STOCK # DC816012 FWD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT Est. Mileage: 23,048 \$22,995	2014 HONDA ACCORD EX-L STOCK # EA013714 FWD, V6, i-VTEC, 3.5 Liter, Auto, CVT with Sport Mode, Mileage: 8,218 \$23,995	2017 KIA SEDONA EX STOCK # H6302223 FWD, V6 3.3 Liter, Auto, 6-Spd OD Sportmatic, Mileage: 18,548 \$26,995	2015 NISSAN PATHFINDER PLATINUM STOCK # FC649617 AWD, V6, 3.5 Liter, Automatic, CVT, Mileage: 2,998 \$29,995

JOETEN CUSTOMER CHECKLIST

FREE OIL CHANGES FOR A YEAR	FREE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE	FREE BASIC TOWING SERVICE	FREE SHUTTLE RIDES	48 HOUR VEHICLE EXCHANGE
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------



Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. (670) 234-5562

See dealer for details regarding the Joeten customer checklist.
Some conditions apply.

Like us on
Facebook

Lifoifoi daughters stopped from distributing corporate assets

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed by Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Jose R. Lifoifoi, the Superior Court has prevented his two children from distributing the dividends or transferring the assets of a corporation that is in dispute.

Pro tempore Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III also stopped Lifoifoi's children, Ignacia L. Evangelista and Remedio L. Pangelinan, from transferring and/or encumbering any real estate owned or controlled by Quad L's Company.

The two are corporate officers and directors of the company.

Lifoifoi and his children agree that Evangelista and Pangelinan can still receive their paychecks and can continue to pay Quad L's Company employees and other payments that are carried out in the regular course of business.

In an order that granted Lifoifoi's bid for a preliminary injunction, Lamorena said if Evangelista and Pangelinan doubt whether a transaction is appropriate, they can ask the court.

Lifoifoi is suing Evangelista and Pangelinan, and Quad L's Company, also known as Quad L Corp., for conversion, unlawful taking, breach of fiduciary duty, and removal of directors by judicial proceeding.

Lifoifoi, through counsel Charity R. Hodson, asked the court to declare him as the only lawful shareholder of Quad L and to find the transfer of his company shares void from the beginning.

He wants the court to order his two daughters to transfer their shares back to him and to execute the documents to transfer the real property corporate assets back to the corporation.

In granting Lifoifoi's motion for preliminary injunction, Lamorena ruled that Lifoifoi's claims in his lawsuit are not likely barred by the statute of limitations.

Lamorena said it was reasonable for Lifoifoi to trust that his own children would not concoct a scheme to illicitly transfer his interest in Nha Thrang to themselves.

He said Lifoifoi is likely to prevail on his theory that his shares of Nha Thrang were never effectively transferred to his children.

The judge said defendants' failure to contest the existence of a signed writing and/or produce said writing makes it likely that Lifoifoi will prevail on his claim that he never transferred his shares in Quad L's Company.

Lamorena said defendants' argument that the alleged injuries are speculative is not persuasive because, while it is undisputed that many of the most contested

transfers and distributions of corporate assets occurred in the past, this suit presents added incentive for defendants to transfer or encumber assets.

Lamorena said it is evident that the balance of the hardships tips in Lifoifoi's favor.

The judge said it appears undisputed that Lifoifoi is currently cut out of the management and control of the corporation and that he has no assurance that the corporation's assets will be preserved pending the lawsuit.

Lamorena said Lifoifoi has alleged that defendants unlawfully attempted to transfer corporate ownership and used their corporate powers to enrich themselves at the corporation's and ostensibly Lifoifoi's expense.

"Ensuring that corporate formalities and duties are being observed is doubtless in the public interest because the Commonwealth Business Corporation Regulation Act prescribes as much," he pointed out.

Lamorena said issuing an injunction at this point will preserve the status quo while providing time for the case to be heard and decided.

Lamorena specially enjoined Evangelista and Pangelinan from transferring and/or encumbering four pieces of land in Garapan; a property at the Sugar King II Subdivision; a property in Tanapag; 11,205

square meters of land in an unspecified location; a land in Tanapag; and other real properties owned and/or controlled by Quad L's Company.

Lamorena said there appears to be no pending land transactions, so Evangelista and Pangelinan would have little difficulty following the court's order.

Lamorena ordered the parties to submit proposed scheduling orders on or before April 2, 2018, and to begin the mandatory mediation process.

The judge said once he has received the parties' proposal, he will issue a scheduling order.

The case concerns a dispute between Lifoifoi and some of his children over the ownership and control of a family corporation, Quad L.

Quad L was originally organized in 1994 as Nha Thrang Inc. by Lifoifoi and his friend and business partner, the late business tycoon Larry Hillblom.

Lifoifoi and Hillblom each had 500 shares of Nha Thrang. Each owned and controlled 50 percent of the company.

The original deal between Lifoifoi and Hillblom was that Lifoifoi would provide land and Hillblom would provide capital to develop a real estate business.

In 1995, Hillblom passed away, leading to protracted litigation over his sizeable estate. Nha Thrang continued as a going

concern after Hillblom's death.

Hillblom's 50 percent interest was held by his estate pending its ultimate distribution. Eventually, in 1999, Lifoifoi became the sole shareholder in Nha Thrang because Hillblom's estate agreed to sell his shares to Lifoifoi.

In 1997, Lifoifoi's four children—Evangelista, Pangelinan, Joseph T. Lifoifoi, and the late Josephine L. Tajibmai—returned to the CNMI in the wake of their mother's passing.

After their return, the children decided to stay in the CNMI. Since the children wanted to stay, and not complete their academic studies on the U.S. mainland, Lifoifoi determined that it would be a good idea for them to start working for Nha Thrang in order to gain work experience.

Starting in 1998, Lifoifoi had his four children served in various capacities, including as directors and corporate officers. Evangelista and Pangelinan continued to act as corporate directors and officers up to the present.

In October 1999, the children filed Nha Thrang's annual report with the Commonwealth Registrar of Corporations, indicating that Lifoifoi no longer had any interest in Nha Thrang and that all 1,000 shares in the corporation had been transferred to

the children in equal shares of 250 shares each.

After the alleged transfer of ownership, the children allegedly: changed the name of the corporation to Quad L; started illicitly paying themselves dividends; and illicitly transferred real property held by the corporation to themselves.

Lifoifoi has alleged that his children abused the trust he had put in them by attempting to transfer his shares in the corporation to themselves and by raiding corporate assets for their own benefit.

Lifoifoi claims that he only discovered the misconduct when he started doing his estate plan in 2016. After attempting to get his shares back from his children, Lifoifoi sued the defendants.

Lifoifoi has not sued his son, Joseph T. Lifoifoi, because he has allegedly renounced any ownership interest in the corporation.

Lifoifoi has requested that the court issue a preliminary injunction barring defendants from distributing any dividends and/or transferring or encumbering any corporate assets, in particular any real estate held by the corporation.

Lifoifoi does not seek to block day-to-day operations of the company, but merely seeks to enjoin large distributions, dividends, and/or large scale real estate transactions.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council "Yes I Can!"

P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2018 Second General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at Pacific Islands Club – Annex Room from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of April 17, 2018
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of FY 2018 First General Membership Meeting of December 28, 2017
- V. Reports
 - A. Statewide Independent Living Council Chairperson
 - B. Center for Living Independently Executive Director
 - C. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Director
- VI. Action Item
 - A. SILC Representative on the State Rehabilitation Council
- VII. Old Business
 - A. Statewide Independent Living Council Membership
- VIII. New Business
 - A. National Council on Independent Living Conference
- IX. Consumer Forum
- X. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Friday, April 13, 2018.

/s/ **Gernadine Camacho**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2018 Second General Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at the Pacific Islands Club-Charley's Cabaret from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of April 19, 2018
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes:
 - a. FY 2018 First General Membership Meeting of December 21, 2017
 - b. FY 2018 Special Meeting of March 9, 2018
- V. Reports
 - a. SRC Chairperson
 - b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
 - c. Employment & Marketing Committee Chairperson
 - d. Transportation & Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
 - e. OVR Director
- VI. Action Items
 - a. Ratify/Approval of SRC Mission
 - b. Review/Approval of SRC Logo
- VII. Old Business
 - a. Reemployment System Integration (RSI) Update
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) One-Stop Center
- IX. Consumer Forum
- X. Employer Forum
- XI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- XII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Friday, April 13, 2018.

/s/ **ELIZABETH S. ADA, Chairperson**

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

House panel starts reviewing proposed budget

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Ways and Means Committee has started reviewing the fiscal year 2019 budget.

The committee's review of the budget proposal offered by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is some six months well before the deadline of a final product on Oct. 1, 2018, according to the committee's chairman, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

Noting a \$21.4-million in-

crease in the proposed budget compared to fiscal year 2018, Torres' \$258.1-million budget "reflects how much we have progressed over the past couple of years."

"After decades of mounting government debt, we have since paid over \$116 million for outstanding obligations in land compensation, judgments, retiree benefits, [and appropriations to the] Public School System and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.," De-

mapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The next step will be to conduct a resources hearing

with the governor's special assistant for Management and Budget and the secretary of Finance," added Demapan.

He would then "introduce a

concurrent resolution to concur with the governor's projected revenue."

"...Once the House adopts that, we will begin scheduling

public hearings for the agencies," he said.

Demapan did not specify which agencies would be prioritized for the budget hearings.

Municipal Council chair to run for House seat

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Luis John "L.J." DLG Castro has officially announced his candidacy for a seat in the CNMI House of Representatives in the upcoming election.

Castro will be running under the NMI Republican Party as representative for Precinct 1.

"Running for this office was something I have wanted to do in the past, but yet due to certain setbacks I was not able to. Now, with encouragement from friends and loved ones, it is an ambition I'm excited to seek," he said.

Castro was a member of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council for the past two years.

"In this election, I seek to serve the people who I looked

up to growing up, and those whose lives I've been privileged to enrich through my work in the community as both a citizen and as a public official," he said.

Castro is active in the church and was a senator in the second, third, and fourth CNMI Youth Congress.

He cited his experience of having worked with the late governor Eloy S. Inos and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Castro plans on running his campaign with the same platform he used when seeking election to the council: commitment, collaboration, and community.

"With these 'Three C's' as I like to call them, I hope to draft legislation together with my colleagues in the Legislature that will not only benefit our precinct, but the entire Commonwealth as a whole and continue the progress that has been made so far," he said.

United to add 20 additional flights between Guam and Tokyo, Nagoya

GUAM—United Airlines announced Monday that it will operate a total of 20 additional flights between two Japanese cities, Tokyo/Narita and Nagoya, and Guam between Aug. 2 and 27, 2018, to meet high Japanese travel demand during the summer holidays.

Of these additional flights, 13 will operate out of Tokyo/Narita and seven out of Nagoya.

Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of operations - Asia/Pacific, said, "As Guam's hometown airline for the past 50 years, our team continuously monitors the market for opportunities to add flights between Guam and Japan. We are pleased to see that the demand for summer travel is increasing to Guam, which is great news for our local economy. The entire United team remains committed to working closely with Guam Visitors Bureau and stakeholders to support Guam's tourism industry and provide the connections that our resi-

dents count on."

Additional flights will operate using 120-seat B737-700s featuring 12 business class seats, 30 Economy Plus seats and 78 economy class seats, as well as 166-seat B737-800s with 16 business class seats, 42 Economy Plus seats and 108 economy class seats.

United is the only U.S. airline that operates flights between Guam and Japan. It currently operates more than 40 regular non-stop weekly flights between Guam and four Japanese cities (Tokyo/Narita, Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuoka). These additionally scheduled flights will enable more Japanese customers to visit Guam, the closest and the most well-known overseas beach resort in Japan, with more convenient flight choices during summer holidays.

United will continue to closely monitor the market conditions and adjust capacity to meet travel demand. *(United)*

Yap to celebrate three decades of friendship between FSM and Japan

COLONIA, Yap—Honoring 30 years of diplomatic relations between the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan will be the focus of the 9th Annual Yap Summer Homecoming Festival on June 15 and 16 in Yap.

The Living History Museum in Colonia will be the setting for the celebration that will feature traditional dances, food, handicrafts, canoe rides and children's activities.

"We are very excited

to welcome our Japanese friends as well as new visitors from Japan and around the world to celebrate our close association and thank the Japanese people and government for their partnership through the years," said Don Evans, general manager of the Yap Visitors Bureau. A full schedule of events will be published as it is finalized on www.visit Yap.com and Facebook #yapvisitorsbureau. *(PR)*

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.


HEAVY EQUIPMENT RENTAL

- Dumptruck • Backhoe • Payloader
- Excavator and many more



For more inquiries, please call Rachele at 322-1558 or Henry at 322-1988/287-1698
Location: Lower Base, Saipan


Bring the Whole Family this Friday!





Charter Day

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018

4PM - 10PM | NMC SOUTH FIELD




#Talent Competition



#Food




#Entertainment




#Games

 NMC.Proa

 GoProa

 NMC.Proa

 Northern Marianas College

www.marianas.edu

Millennials encouraged to exercise right to vote

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

According to the story related by an American lawyer when he was a government adviser in Afghanistan, the Taliban would issue threats that, if anyone is caught with indelible purple ink on their fingers, that they would cut the fingers off.

Indelible ink is used to identify those who have voted already so that they can't vote twice," he said.

"I recall a story of a photo shown to me of an old Afghan woman. ...The photo showed her hand with three fingers missing but her pinky finger had indelible purple ink.

"Around the world, people

are fighting and risking their lives just for their right to vote for their leaders. If they can go through such courage, then certainly we could go through the trouble of going out and exercise freely our right to vote," he added.

Samantha Birmingham-Babauta echoed the same message when she spoke to the Current Issues class at the Northern Marianas College last Wednesday. She encouraged the millennial generation to exercise their right to vote. Aside from it being a civic responsibility, it is the direct way to have a voice in the political landscape of the CNMI, she said.

"I come here not as the pub-

lic information officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. but in my own personal capacity and as a young voter, like all of you here. It is important to talk about this because a study shows that millennials ages 16-34 are expected to take over baby boomers by

2019," she said.

"Eventually, we are going to take over as they [baby boomers] retire, transition out of leadership roles as the young generation graduate and become professionals. It's really important that we...pay attention to what is happening

nationally and locally. Even though we don't have a lot of say nationally, it's important to follow national issues and see how we feel about what is happening at the national level," she added.

At some point, millennials will have to be ready to take

over bigger roles.

"We have to think if we are building an environment for us that's ready to take the next step and to lead the generations that are going to come after us.

"That's why voting is so important. Paying attention to what is happening in the CNMI and having a voice is very crucial," she added.

According to the CNMI Election Commission, as of March 27, 2018, the CNMI has 16,699 registered voters.

"Our biggest chunk of the age groups that are going to have the most influence on voting are the people between 18 to 55 years old. [About] 15.59 percent of the population is under the ages of 15 to 24 years old and 39.96 percent is between 25-54 years old," Birmingham-Babauta said. "The millennials have so much power because they are such a big population.

"The problem is we don't vote. If we do, we...ask our parents, who is good? And who should I vote for?" she added.

She pointed out that the young generation has the power to change many things in the community if they vote.

"Especially in the CNMI, we don't follow politics. We think, 'I don't want to get involved in politics' or 'It's not for me' and 'I don't really care so why should I vote.' But the truth is, it is our responsibility," she said.

"If we have that mindset, that...I don't care who is running and I will just ask my parents,' but at some point they are not going to be here to tell us who to vote for," she added.

A single vote goes an extra mile because numbers are powerful in the CNMI, she said. "We are so small and our system is so unique in that sense," she added.

Birmingham-Babauta said she cannot over-emphasize the importance of the young generation in getting involved in their community.

"Another study said that 51 percent of the global population is under 30 and only 2 percent of young people under 30 make up members in the government. This shows that we are more than half of the population but only 2 percent of our age group and demographics make up government administrations globally," she said. "Is this study true in the CNMI?... we have to be part of the change that we want to see and actually experience. Who we vote for nationally and locally is our voice and our representation. That's why it is important to vote wisely."



MVA IS BEST PARTNER

Marianas Visitors Authority Taiwan PR & marketing manager Steven Cheng, left, receives a "2017 Best Partners" award from Hong Kong Airlines general manager of Taiwan Sales Oliver Li at the 2018 Hong Kong Airlines Spring Dinner Party on March 16, 2018, at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Taipei.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A "2017 Best Partners" award is presented to the Marianas Visitors Authority at the 2018 Hong Kong Airlines Spring Dinner Party on March 16, 2018, in Taipei.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

ITB NO.: ITB18-CCC-079 (1-40)

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 02, 2018 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF NUMEROUS OFFICE EQUIPMENTS
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION,
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RUTH ANN P. SAKISAT
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CCC

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-005-18**

**"WIFI SERVICE DESIGN, CONFIGURATION,
INSTALLATION, AND MAINTENANCE"**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is seeking proposals from experienced and qualified Parties (hereinafter "Proposers") to design, configure, install, and maintain wireless internet service ("WIFI service") at CPA facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning **April 02, 2018, at 8:00 AM** at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of \$50.00 per package. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting shall be held on **April 09, 2018 at 10:00 AM** at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposers who are not familiar with the Saipan International Airport shall be afforded a site visit immediately after the pre-proposal meeting. Subsequent site inspections on Rota and Tinian will be determined during the preproposal meeting. Proposers shall be responsible for arrangements and all associated cost for the subsequent site inspections on Tinian and Rota.

Proposers must submit one original and three copies of their written proposal in sealed envelopes addressed to the Executive Director, Re: "WIFI Service at CPA Facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Project No. CPA-RFP-005-18," P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, which shall be received by the CPA Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport by or before **4:30 p.m., April 20, 2018**. Written proposals delivered after said time and date will not be accepted.

The proposal will be evaluated by an evaluation committee. Proposals shall be restricted to the members of the evaluation committee until after the completion of the evaluation and ranking of proposals. Following completion of the evaluation and establishment of the preference ranking based on the evaluation criteria, award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to CPA taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP and applied in the evaluation plan. Proposals may be prepared and opened for public inspection after award.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to cancel this request for proposal in accordance with CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, to lengthen the proposal period, and to waive minor irregularities in proposals. Discussion may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. However, proposals may also be evaluated solely on the submitted written proposal without follow up or further discussion. All Proposers must agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the Request for Proposal and proposal package.

Nothing herein constitutes or implies a contract to enter into, accept or agree to any terms, conditions or rates, or to allow or promote any activity and in no way encumbers or obligates the CPA to enter into a contract of any kind with any Proposer.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

ADDENDUM NO. 2

ITB NO.: ITB18-COTA/FTA-070

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 16, 2018 TIME: 10:30:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) MEDIUM DUTY ADA
ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"**

March 21, 2018

This addendum is issued to **AMEND** the specifications for the above referenced ITB.

► In the specifications and accessories to **delete**:

1. Engine – 6.7L V8 Diesel Engine
2. ADA Interior Ramp Light
3. ADA Exterior WC Ramp Light

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB18-DFEMS-078

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 11, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY FOR TWO FIREFIGHTING
PUMPER TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE
AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DFEMSA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Last day today to sign up for Chamber golf tourney

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's annual golf tournament is quickly approaching and there are still slots left for interested golfers!

The event is this Saturday, April 14, with show-time at 6am and a shotgun start at 7am. The registration fee is \$130 per person. Chamber members will enjoy a discounted fee of \$120 per member. Deadline for registration is today, April 11, at 5pm.

This year's golf tournament will focus on providing scholarships to enable the youths to achieve their dreams of post-secondary education.

This year's hole-in-one sponsors are Triple J Motors, which is offering a new Mazda MX-5 valued at \$33,995 at hole 3; Takagi & Associates, which is offering a \$5,000 prize at hole 7; McDonald's, which is offering a \$5,000 prize at hole 13; and Aon Insurance and Century Insurance, which are offering yet another \$5,000 prize at hole 17. That totals up to \$50,000 in hole-in-one prizes.

Other hole sponsors include: Bridge Capital, Ernst & Young, Bank of Saipan, Island Training Solutions, Matson Navigation, IT&E, Marpac Distributors, Joint Marketing, First Hawaiian Bank, IP&E, Docomo Pacific, Bank of Ha-



The Saipan Chamber of Commerce accepts a contribution from IT&E valued at \$1,000 which includes hole sponsorship, raffle items, and monetary donation. From left, Jill Arenovski, executive director, Saipan Chamber of Commerce; and Rob Harrell, executive director of customer operations, IT&E. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



The Saipan Chamber of Commerce receives a donation from Joeten Enterprises. From left, Darlene Macaranas, manager, Joeten Susupe; Chamber coordinator Christine Tadeo, and a Joeten employee. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

waii, Dial-Rent-to-Own, and AC Pacific dba I Love Saipan.

"I am happy to help sponsor the SCC Golf Tournament. I know the funds will go to assisting the Chamber fund their yearly scholarship program that help deserving young people with college or trade school tuition. The awesome two-person scramble format makes for a day of fun and networking and allows golfers at all levels a chance of winning," said one sponsor.

Registered players will enjoy a complimentary swag bag filled with items donated by: AC Pacific dba I Love Saipan, StayWell Insurance, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., D&Q Saipan, Matson Navigation, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and NMI CrimeStoppers.

On course refreshments are provided by Coca-Cola and Marpac.

Immediately following the tournament, players will enjoy a banquet at Laolao Bay Golf Resort's "The Grill" where a raffle draw will be held. Among the sponsors are Delta Air Lines, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Paradise Dental Center, Pacific Islands Club, MITA Travel, Triple J Saipan, Great Harvest Bread Co., Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Surf Club, Truongs,



Delta Air Lines Guam Sales manager Marie Lizama delivers Delta's contribution to the 2018 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. From left, Marie Lizama, Guam sales manager, Delta Air Lines; and Velma Palacios, Chamber board president. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Union of Professionals, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, D&Q Saipan, Joeten Enterprises, and Marianas Business Plaza.

The Chamber is giving a total of \$3,200 in cash prizes for first, second, and third places, and for each of the two categories: Team Gross and Team Double Peoria as well as cash prizes for closest-to-the-pin, longest drive, and accurate drive contests.

Registration forms for players are available for download at www.saipanchamber.com,

at the Chamber office, and at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/saipanchamber or contact the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or administrator@saipanchamber.com.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization consisting of private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. Call 234-7150 or visit us on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe for more information. **(SCC)**

MICRO GAMES

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

★ TRY-OUTS ★

When: April 14th & 15th
Where: Ada Gym
Time: 4pm-7pm

Must be 16 yrs or older
U.S. Citizen

For More Information
Please Contact
Mychal Omar
Mychal.omar@gmail.com
285-6892
Shawn Davis
shawnd62@hotmail.com
483-9505
Ryan Camacho
788-6967
Alfredo Guevarra
783-4494



Instant "Massive"

BINGO

Located behind Bank Pacific | Beach Road, Garapan
Phone No. 670-783-GAME (4263) | Email: massive@saipan.com

Spring Super Spectacular
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018
DOOR OPENS 2PM - PACKAGE GAMES STARTS 3:00PM

\$1,000.00 CASH PACKAGE PAYOUT GUARANTEED
10 GAMES = 1PK: \$50.00 / BUY 2 GET 1 FREE (Single Player)

\$10,000.00 COVERALL
(51 NUMBERS OR LESS)

\$1,000.00 CONSOLATION PRIZE
Brush Cutter | Lawn Mower | Leaf Blower | Garden Tools and MORE!!!

EVERY WEDNESDAY THRU SATURDAY * INSTANT BINGO
DOOR OPEN 7PM, GAMES STARTS 7:30PM AND
EVERY SUNDAY, DOOR OPEN 2PM, GAMES STARTS 2:30PM
EVERY WED-SUN, LETTER X GAME \$1,000 / \$100 CONSOLATION
(19 NUMBERS OR LESS)

EASY TO PLAY & EASY TO WIN AT
INSTANT "MASSIVE" BINGO, INSTANT CASH WINNERS!
THE HOTTEST GAMES IN TOWN!
Must be 18yrs to play

E-Bingo has arrived | Open April 15!

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 71

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Troops at the Mexican border?

President Trump announced on Tuesday that he would send military troops to guard the border with Mexico to prevent migrants' illegal entry.

Trump went into an absolute tizzy when he learned that a caravan of immigrants from Central America—about 1,200 of them—had entered Mexico bound for the border with the United States. “Until we can have a border wall and security, we will monitor our border with our armed forces,” he said.

But his order was even a surprise to military officers, ordered to send the National Guard to enforce our immigration laws.

The reality is that the caravan, called Viacrucis Migrante, is a symbolic march that has taken place every year since 2010 to make known to the world the challenges migrants endure when they pass through Mexico.

The reality is that the caravan, which on March 25 left the Mexican town of Tapachula in the south, was stopped in its attempt to cross Mexico. But by then, Trump was off and running.

Trump said that his threats prompted the Mexican government to halt the caravan, but the organizers denied that the Mexican authorities had pressured them to end their trek. Irineo Mujica, director of Pueblo Sin Fronteras, which organizes the annual caravans, said that the decision not to continue moving toward the border was because of the high number of participants and disorganization.

The participants were mostly from Honduras, a country plagued by poverty and gang violence, and where instability has only increased since President Juan Orlando Hernandez was re-elected in a referendum tarnished by allegations of fraud.

In the caravan came women with children, women who are pregnant and poor people with the hope of reaching the United States to work and help their families in Honduras. If Trump and his supporters consider that group a threat, it's clear they don't know the definition.

Undoubtedly, borders must be monitored, and immigration must be controlled. Trump is right on that point. But his method is the problem. The United States is not facing a massive migration crisis. In fact, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported record-low apprehensions at the southwestern border in 2017.

So what's the point of sending the National Guard to the border, with no thought to cost, approach or effectiveness? The point is, this is for show—Trump's expensive and needless move to force Congress to fund his even more expensive, more needless border wall.

The border, indeed, has been militarized in recent years. President Obama sent 1,200 soldiers to fight drug trafficking. His predecessor, George W. Bush, sent about 6,000 troops for construction of fences and roads. The cost to taxpayers in both instances was astronomical.

Trump's criticism of the immigration policies of his predecessors is getting old. Obama never implemented an

See **TROOPS** on Next Page

The citizenship question

By **GERALD KAMENS**
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Over two decades ago, I relentlessly pursued a few score folks, who—for reasons of forgetfulness, fear, apathy, orneriness, principle or a combination thereof—had neglected or deliberately refused to fill in the decennial census questionnaire previously mailed to them.

It was a “temporary enumerator” summer job, paying \$15.25 an hour, and, more to the point for this contracted government retiree, offering a chance to get out of my comfort zone.

Most of the people I tracked down were foreign-born – Indians, Russians, Somalians, Japanese and others. I knocked on many doors of these immigrants, whose legal status I knew not. Roaming dimly lit apartment halls, I dutifully charted my visits and left form notes if nobody responded. Interviews were usually brief, requiring only a half dozen short answers.

My respondents were usually friendly and often genuinely interested in telling their stories. A few found my visit annoying, but perhaps less so than the long form: 54 questions sent to every sixth household in the country to collect presumably very useful information on ethnic origins, work, housing, disabilities and so on. Many were put off, I imagine, by having to respond in writing, in other than their native language, to that lengthy questionnaire.

The in-person interviews often lasted an hour, which, of course, made them more memorable to me. As when I asked, for instance, a 46-year-old Eritrean woman, a non-U.S. citizen in this country just two years, whether she'd ever served in the U.S. armed forces. She laughed like I was crazy. But she was the only one of my respondents who mentioned her citizenship status. And, of course, that was not one of our 54 questions.

Another day, I was welcomed by a large, pleasant Egyptian man, in clothes that looked like pajamas to me. His wife and young son looking on, he listened patiently to all of my questions. He didn't seem perturbed to tell this stranger how much money he made last year or that his apartment had flush toilets. Would he have been as responsive if I'd inquired into his citizenship? Early on in the meeting, he insisted I drink an orange soda. From Alexandria, Egypt, he was delighted to learn that I'd visited there on business 20 years earlier. A few words of courtesy Arabic from me as I departed, off to my next adventure.

Many of my targets were residents of three large apartment

complexes, populated almost entirely by Salvadorans and Hondurans, perhaps a mile from my comfortable house in Arlington. There I encountered a melange of sights, sounds and smells—kids playing in hallways, exotic cooking aromas of garlic, coriander, chutney. People I met in those buildings may have responded to me because they thought it their duty or maybe an act of patriotism, even when they'd initially forgotten or chosen not to respond on paper.

Once, in less than an hour, I managed to conduct a long-form interview in my halting Spanish, with five unrelated adults and two children in a small but outwardly happy apartment. Would they have answered as readily, or even opened their door, if they thought their lives in this country might be cut short by answering truthfully a question about their citizenship status?

Each day that I walked the streets, with my badge, clipboard, forms and sharpened pencils, I learned a little more about my neighbors' complicated lives. I still think about some of the people I encountered, like the mother who insisted, in response to my question about her family's ethnic origin (but not their citizenship) that she was Hispanic, while her teen-aged daughter insisted with equal vehemence that she was American.

I sometimes wondered what went on behind those closed doors, how some people reacted to my authoritative knock, often needed to penetrate the loud TV or salsa music filling the apartment on the other side. I wondered about those who chose not to answer—the suddenly vanished television sounds, the shushed little children. Inconvenience? Or old age? Or just stubborn-ness? Perhaps.

But how might such folks respond in 2020, if they respond at all, to the mailed questionnaire, or answered the insistent follow-up knock on the door, if they'd heard that the 2020 Census would ask whether or not they're U. S. citizens, as is being considered?

Would they believe the written assurance, or the promise of a temporary enumerator like me, that their privacy would be guarded and that the citizenship status information would not be shared with any other agency (think: ICE)? Would they conquer their fears just so that they could be counted, knowing that an accurate total count would have many serious consequences for this country?

What do you think?

Gerald Kamens is a retired government worker who worked in the White House, the U.S. Senate and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Amot natibu

Namagof i ma-abiban usun amot natibu ni man-an-sianu siha na man-yo-amte guine. Guiya este usun hagin tinanum, ramas, troñku yan hale` para che-not.

Huñgan guaha kumuestiona inañgog-hu gi amot natibu. Lau konfotmeyu` ni finu` yo-amte as Tom Mendiola na desde tiempun antigu i kuttura ha prebeniye amot para umasustene hinemlu` natibu. I tiempu yan manadan mana` fan homlu` testegu-ta.

Huli`e dos klasen yo-amte. Unu ha usa amot yan fuetsan gin-en hilu`. I otro solu i amot ni hana` sesetbe sin megai birada. I metgot i mefena, i segundu otdinariu.

I afamau na yo-amte kulan ti otdinariu na tautau. I moduña difrensiau ya sin palabra hagu mismu un` akseptu na gai fuetsa (sentidu yan fuetsudu na sensia). I muna` famokat-yu` ginen seriosu na apliñg esta pa`gu (maseha esta felis madisponiña) mafattu ya ha bisisita-yu` gi chinatsagag-hu. Fiet yan sattun espirituña giya guahu.

Guaha ha` lokue` ayu i “mana`e” nina` siñaña naturat. Finu` man-amko` “pachaña”.

Mañgu`: Guine gi alacha, hu taitai lokue` un` repot pot superior na benefisiun usun mañgu` (turmeric). Este na tinanum gai propiadat mafanana`an “curcumin” ni muna` metgot sistema-ta kontra chenot. Ha punu` lokue` binenu gi halum haga`ta ni tumututuhun chenot kanset.

Mauleg na benefisiu lokue` para hinemlu` korason yan titanos. Ha tupa todú imbarasus ni humuhuchum gigat para i korason-ta. Ti un` famadese hamalefa gi inamko` mu. Mañgu`!

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Denial of voting rights violates human rights, international law

Four decades after voting overwhelmingly in favor of the Covenant of Political Union with the United States, the people of the Marianas enjoy the benefit of tens of millions of dollars in federal support each year, as well as the priceless benefit of U.S. citizenship.

Yet our citizenship is flawed; because, if we choose to live in the Marianas, we cannot vote for President and have no voting representation in Congress.

For that reason, I have joined an amicus brief in support of a case brought by former Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Rosselló before the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Rosselló v. United States argues that by denying U.S. citizens, like us, voting representation in the federal government, the United States is violating its international law obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.

As your representative in Congress, I have learned to be effective even without a vote on the House floor. After all, decisions on the content of legislation are mostly made long before any final vote there.

But, for those of us who care deeply about political status, simply making the best of an imperfect system is not good enough. I believe, if Congress is going to enact laws impacting the well-being of the Marianas, then our people should have the same voting representation other Americans enjoy.

In the 2003 case, *Statehood Solidarity Committee v. United States*, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ruled that the denial of voting representation in Congress for residents of the District of Columbia violated the United States' international law commitments.

Despite that ruling, no change has come for D.C. The only change for any U.S. non-state area has been the creation of the seat in Congress for the Marianas.

I intend to use that seat, as long as it is entrusted to me, to work for equality and improved political status for the Marianas, even if the day of success seems distant.

Bula este na hale` `sino tinanum guine. Megaiña besis `nai tana setbe gi eskabecheñ guihan. Lau pot mas ke mit años ma-usa mañgu` gi lamegai na nasion para amot. Hu etsis balen dos kichalan dañkulu na mañgu` ya hu pega gi halum lemonada. Hu gigimen este kase tres biahe gi semana.

Brabu yan homlu` siñienteg-hu. Man-maliñgu hagas pina-desisihu siha. Paire na amot fresku! Dispues bula katkuet lugat guine piot gi halum lanheria.

Niyog: I industrian amot ginen lagu lamegai na dañu ha sablasus hit tat kumu usun niyog. Yangin gai minagahet finu` niha pues hagas mafnas tautau isla siha gi enteru Pasifiku.

Lau laime este pot para ta fahan amot niha dimas de ta usune benefisiosu na usun niyog. Pa`gu duru mafama na mauleg usun niyog. Hagas mauleg desde antigu na tiempu! Tutuhun umusa hagas pine`lun antigu na mañaina-ta!

Dispues, repara sa` mamta` tatte ga`ga` niyog guine. Mafattu gi hinasog-hu kau guaha gai planu este pot para u punu` usun niyog gi tautau isla? Seguru na taigüe industrian amot ginen America guine na planu?

Ladron: Si Fernando Magayanes (Magellan) tumagpañge Marianas “ladrones” `sino tanu` man-saki. Guiya gumulusune kumatgaye batkoña mantension ginen Saipan dispues ha sablasus hit na man-saki?

Este na matdision kanaha` sumaga gi estorian i tanu`. Mau-leg sa` adumididi` sige maliñgu. Guiya si puñeteru i ladron ti tautau Marianas. Magofyu` `nai huhuñgog na dikiki` gadau (lapulapu) pumunu` pot imbeninau giya Filipinas. Tontu!

Liñguahe: Huli`e na megai na guma` familia man-u` usa finu` Eñglis diariu. Estague` tutuhun para despedidan finu` natibu gi famaguon-ta. Gi halum nietus yan nietas ni unu tumuñgu finu` Chamorro. `An hu kuentuse kulan mohon finu` estrañgheru lau finu` Chamorro.

Puede kinalamten man-kabilosu yan mangai kinimite gi haf sustansian natibu mali`e yan ma-adelanta este na fina` chinat-saga. Muñga na para ta bibira hit tatte lau hagas tafana` haf tinatet-ta yan sustansia-ta. Na pinite i para ti u tuñgu` un` pat-gon haf` tinateña.

Ñahlalañg: `Nai gumupu i batkon aire ginen Tinian ha anunsia dispues i pilotu na matai i uttimu na turupela. Ilegña un` biha,

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



“Pa`gu `nai mangatdun hit guine hulu` tula noche”. De dios!

■■■

Umasodayu` yan un` listu na chatmediku. Hali`e na mayaye-yu` pot daibites. Guiya este i mafanana`an mames haga`. Ilegña si pindehu para bai chochu asiga. Dios mihu! Ha punu`yu` i medikon sisonyan!

■■■

Ha faisenyu` un` amiguhu haf` na tatnai hu hatme offisiun publiku. Hu sañgane haf` matago`hu ginen hilu`. Ilegña i Saina, “Fañge”. Tihu huñgog hasañgan “Falagu”. Todu man-malagu` man-gobietnu. Poluyu` yan Magoo ya hame bai`n rikokohe basula siha gi kantun chalan. Ai na grasia `nai hu lap-bla i amiguhu!

■■■

Konsidera `an todú man-gobietnu. Haye dispues para tatagu` nu i chechu` linahyan `an parehu todú galun?

Fiet Na Amigahu: Gi lemlem tautau, estaba un` amiguhu gi kantun tasi, mamaisa. Era madispose teñguañgña gi alacha ya sige ha asimula haf` mamamaila`.

Apmam de asaguaña sumetbe desde oga`an estake mandeskansa `an pueñge. Guiya umesgagaihon katma na halum guma`, diariu. Tat tiha tuñgu` gi nesessidat kada unu. Dispues madispose.

Mamaisa ha` na biahe. Esta guiguiya ha` para un` restoran (restaurant) ni sessu sumugu` i dos dispues de misa umamotsa. Puti magahet `nai sumuha i “fiet na amiga-hu” gi mañge` na relasion dos umasagua.

Why China trade has been a bust

There's already a trade war, and it's being waged by Beijing.

China's ascension to the World Trade Organization nearly 20 years ago has failed in its strategic objectives. It hasn't created a liberalizing regime or a free-market economy in China; in fact, it hasn't even created a China ready and willing to abide by the norms of free trade.

The regime of Xi Jinping hasn't been pushed toward democratic reforms by a rising middle class. China still champions state-led, rather than market-led, capitalism. And it takes advantage of the WTO, using nontariff barriers and industrial policy, to push mercantilist policies.

President Donald Trump's prospective tariffs on steel and aluminum have put renewed focus on China trade, although the tariffs are a comically inept misfire if their true target is China. The rubric for the levies could be: “How to lose a trade war with China in one easy step.”

The tariffs don't really affect China, from which we import only about 3 percent of our steel. Meanwhile, they send the message that the U.S. government is lurching toward protectionism, and alienate our allies. A better approach begins with acknowledging that China is a unique problem. For all of Trump's complaints, Mexico isn't pursuing a well-honed strategic agenda of exploiting the global trade system while it undertakes an aggressive neoimperialist foreign policy. Only China is doing that.

China isn't the first developing country to adopt a policy of maximizing exports. What makes it different is its sheer ambition and its size, which gives it leverage over foreign companies and considerable international influence.

What's the harm to the U.S.? There is no doubt that China's practices have harmed U.S. manufacturing. Yes, technology accounts for a large share of job losses. Yes, lower-end manufacturing would have left our shores regardless. But Beijing works to block higher-value-added exports from the U.S. and is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to dominate in advanced industries.

By no means should we emulate China. We should continue to pursue free trade as a policy, not as a theology that prevents us from acknowledging that there is such a thing as unfair trade.

The ITIF report urges using the global free-trade regime against China. That means bringing more actions against China in the WTO and working to update the rules to capture Chinese cheating. It means joining, and influencing, a multilateral agree-

By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



ment like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. It means forging bilateral agreements with up-to-date standards that reinforce principles that China undermines.

We obviously can't do this alone. We'd have to lead an alliance of international partners to pressure China on specific practices, with tailored consequences if we get nowhere.

Such a broad-based effort to crack China's mercantilism wouldn't be protectionist, but the opposite. There is obviously no chance of doing this, though, if we are engaged in an absurd cycle of tit-for-tat tariffs with the likes of the EU.

Trump can have emotionally satisfying tariffs to scratch his protectionist itch, or he can have a strategy to muster an alliance of truly free-trade partners to pressure China. He can't have both -- and you can be sure China knows which option it prefers.

TROOPS

From Page 10

open-border policy, as Trump has claimed. In fact, during the first seven years of his administration, Obama deported more than 2.7 million foreigners, the highest figure in U.S. history, which earned him the derisive nickname, “Deporter-in-Chief.”

Here's what's clear: The obsolete American immigration system must be overhauled.

We must seek comprehensive, and humane, immigration reform, and not militarize the border to block the passage of desperate people, much less a human deluge that doesn't exist.

After all, we are America, still.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲89° ▼76°

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲89° ▼76°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

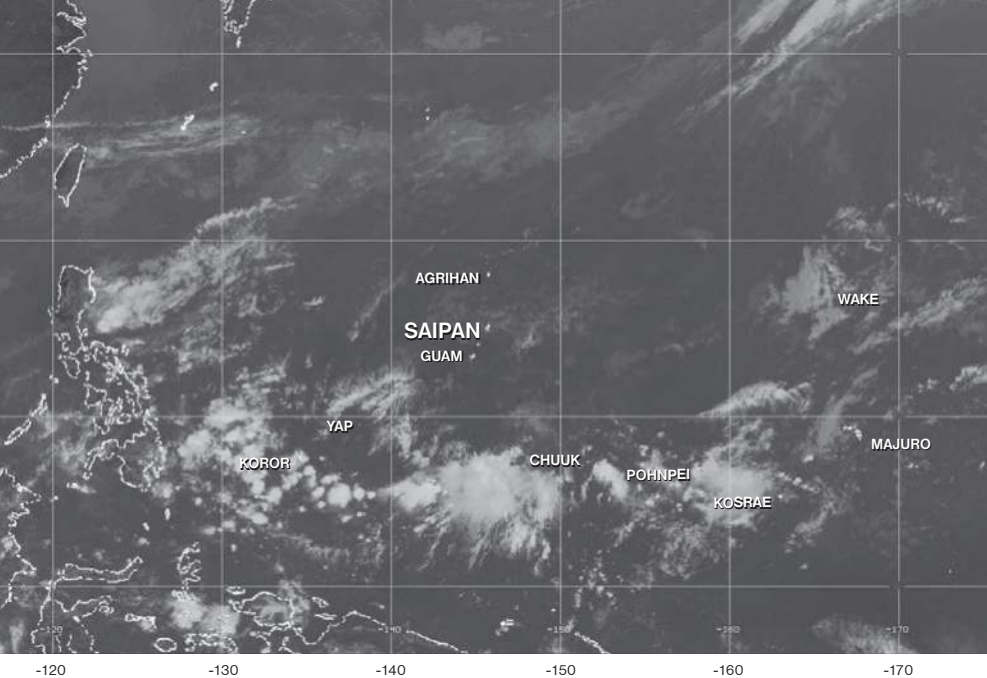
▲87° ▼77°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:37 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

GFS and ECMWF still have a trade-wind disturbance in the region over the weekend, the GFS being about 12 hours faster with it. The NAVGEM stands alone in pushing a tropical cyclone up north west of the islands along longitude 142E Sat-Sun. So the forecast is nearly the same, except have moved isolated thunderstorms up 12 hours, starting Saturday night instead of Sunday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 59°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 46°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 75°	
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 73°	
London	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	75° / 54°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	73° / 54°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 71°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	54° / 43°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°	
Salem	Sunny	72° / 47°	
San Francisco	Rain	57° / 46°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	66° / 45°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	59° / 44°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:11 AM	HIGH TIDE	11.69	
11:07 AM	LOW TIDE	1.00	
4:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.49	
10:56 PM	LOW TIDE	0.26	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:37 am	2:24 pm	-
Thursday	3:20 AM	3:14 PM	-
Friday	4:02 AM	4:05 PM	-
Saturday	4:43 AM	4:57 PM	-
Sunday	5:25 AM	5:49 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Social Security continues upward trend

Social Security benefits contributed \$30.9 million to the Northern Marianas economy last year, up by \$1.128 million over 2016.

The number of people getting benefits is also higher, according to the Social Security Administration's records released to Congress. It said 2,955 retirees, disabled workers, and survivors received Social Security checks in 2017. These benefits pumped \$1.95 million in income every month to the Marianas economy, bringing in a total of \$23.4 million for the year.

In addition, the Supplemental Security Income program paid a total of \$7.5 million to 1,027 Marianas residents last year.

"All these benefits provide a steady income to the recipients, but Social Security has

a much greater impact than that," said Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). "When beneficiaries spend their checks on goods and services, the effects ripple throughout our economy."

The average Marianas recipient received a monthly check for \$660 last year. Most of the people who receive Social Security benefits are retirees. A total of 1,700 of the beneficiaries in the Marianas are aged 65 or older.

Sablan has regularly co-sponsored legislation that strengthens and preserves Social Security for today's seniors and future generations.

"During their working years, Americans pay into the system in exchange for a promise of a safe, healthy and dignified retirement. That's

a promise we must always keep," Sablan said.

The Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance—popularly known as Social Security—provides monthly benefits to a retired or disabled worker and family members, based on the worker's earnings during his or her lifetime.

A separate program, SSI provides federal cash assistance to low-income elderly, blind, or disabled persons and is available to persons in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and—thanks to our Covenant—the Northern Mariana Islands. **(PR)**

Woman hurt after ex-boyfriend allegedly beat her up

A woman was injured after her former boyfriend allegedly beat her up upon seeing her walking home with a male friend in Garapan last Wednesday night.

The victim had a black eye, swelling on her face, and a cut on her lip.

Felix Muna Kileleman, 24, was arrested Friday for assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set Monday at \$20,000 cash.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan set the preliminary hearing for April 19.

A woman called police last

Thursday morning to report that her daughter had been beaten up.

The police officer met with the victim in China Town and she stated that her former boyfriend, Kileleman, beat her up.

In her interview with the police last Friday, she alleged that she was drinking with a friend at a hotel in Garapan last Wednesday night. After that, a male friend volunteered to walk her home. While they were walking by Magandang Utang Store along Garapan Street, they met Kileleman. The victim heard her friend telling Kileleman he does not want any

problems. Her friend then left.

As the victim was walking toward her apartment, Kileleman followed her and was mumbling.

When she saw a woman in front of Nam Dai Restaurant, she told her to call the police.

Kileleman allegedly got more upset and broke her cellphone by throwing it on the ground.

As she turned around to run, Kileleman allegedly grabbed her hair, dragged her down to the pavement, and punched her face several times. She said Kileleman threatened he would find her friend and beat him up too.

Coast Guard searching for possible person in water near Champagne Pond, Big Island

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard is searching for a possible person in the water in the vicinity of Champagne Ponds, Big Island, Hawai'i, Sunday.

Missing is 31-year-old Logan Whitfield of Canada.

Whitfield is described at 5'10", 170 lbs, with short black hair and a goatee. He was last seen wearing black swim trunks, a black t-shirt, water shoes and had a black mask and snorkel.

An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter aircrew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, Oahu, launched at 10:05 p.m., to search the area. Members from the Hawaii Police Department and Hawaii Fire Department are

also conducting searches around the area.

An urgent marine information broadcast notice to mariners was issued requesting boaters in the area to keep a sharp lookout.

At 9:15 p.m., watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector Honolulu Command Center received a call from Whitfield's mother. She last saw him headed to go swimming in the vicinity of Champagne Ponds at 6 p.m., and notified the Coast Guard when he did not return several hours later, as previously agreed. She informed officials her son was also a fairly decent swimmer. **(USCG)**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Regular General Membership Meeting

When: Saturday, April 14, 2018
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Herman's Modern Bakery Conference Room

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
- II. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- III. Review and Adoption of Minutes
 - a. March 10, 2018 meeting
- IV. Public Comments (5 Minutes per Commenter)
- V. Director's Report
 - a. Update on Unified State Plan Submission
 - b. Update on Financials
 - c. Update on Board Training
 - d. Update on Operation's Manual
- VI. New Business
 - a. Proposed Unified WIOA Partners MOU
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Next Meeting
- X. Adjournment

Approved by:
/s/ Josephine DLG. Mesta
Chair

**DIABETES?
WE CAN HELP**

Micronesia's ONLY Program Certified by the American Diabetes Association.

**HARDT
EYE CLINIC**
DIABETES EDUCATION CENTER
235-2030

DR. DON HARDT
OPTOMETRIST

DR. DAVID HARDT
OPTOMETRIST

CERTIFIED DIABETES EDUCATORS

Business

China's president offers US possible trade concessions

BEIJING (AP)—President Xi Jinping promised Tuesday to cut China's auto tariffs and improve intellectual property protection in possible concessions aimed at defusing a worsening dispute with Washington over trade and technology that investors worry could set back the global economic recovery.

Speaking at a business conference, Xi made no direct mention of his American counterpart, Donald Trump, or the dispute. He promised progress on areas that are U.S. priorities including opening China's banking industry and boosting imports but didn't address key irritants for Washington such as a requirement for foreign companies to work through joint ventures that require them to give technology to potential local competitors.

Xi tried to position China as a defender of free trade and cooperation, despite its status as the most-closed major economy, in response to Trump's "America first" calls for import restrictions and trade deals that are more favorable to the United States.

"China's door of opening up will not be closed and will only open wider," Xi said at the Boao Forum for Asia on

the southern island of Hainan.

Xi said Beijing will "significantly lower" tariffs on auto imports this year and ease restrictions on foreign ownership in the auto industry "as soon as possible."

Private sector analysts saw Xi's speech as an overture to help end the biggest global trade dispute since World War II. It has fueled fears the global economic recovery might be set back if other governments are prompted to raise their own import barriers.

Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on Chinese goods worth \$50 billion in response to complaints Beijing pressures foreign companies to hand over technology in violation of its World Trade Organization market-opening commitments. Beijing fired back with its own \$50 billion list of U.S. goods for possible retaliation.

The Chinese leader promised to encourage "normal technological exchange" and to "protect the lawful ownership rights of foreign enterprises."

Such pledges might help, Rajiv Biswas of IHS Markit said in a report.

"President Xi's speech could create a very good plat-



A woman walks by a man sitting outside an American apparel store at a shopping mall in Beijing, Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

form to launch U.S.-China dialogue at the WTO to find a deal on intellectual property rights that will address US concerns," Biswas said. "This would be a victory for the world trading system and an important step away from the abyss of rising global protectionism."

The dispute is likely to end "with a concession from China," said Larry Hu of Macquarie Group in a report.

Chinese officials deny foreign companies are compelled to hand over technology, but business groups say joint venture and licensing rules make that unavoidable. The United States filed a World Trade Organization complaint last month accusing Beijing of violating its market-opening pledges by imposing unfair contract terms and allowing

companies to use foreign-owned technology after licensing periods expire.

Foreign companies complain Beijing is squeezing them out of promising parts of the state-dominated economy to promote the ruling Communist Party's plans to create Chinese global competitors in fields including robotics, electric cars and

pharmaceuticals.

Xi gave no details on how those conditions might change, leaving it unclear whether that might mollify Washington.

Easing rules that limit global automakers to owning no more than 50 percent of a joint venture with a Chinese partner might help to address Trump's complaints about technology as well as giving them more flexibility in their biggest global market.

Jake Parker, the vice president for China of the U.S.-China Business Council, which represents companies that deal with China, welcomed Xi's announcement but expressed hope for additional steps such as ending requirements for joint ventures and technology licensing.

"Ultimately, U.S. industry will be looking for implementation of long-stalled economic reforms, but actions to date have greatly undermined the optimism of the U.S. business community," Parker said in an email.

Xi repeated pledges to open China's finance industries to foreign investors but gave no additional details.

Amid trade fight, Trump says he'll 'make it up' to farmers

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump acknowledged Monday that farmers could be adversely affected by the escalating tariff dispute with China, but promised to make it up to them, saying they "will be better off than they ever were."

Speaking at a Cabinet meeting, Trump addressed the Chinese threat to slap tariffs on soybeans and other agriculture staples grown in rural America, a move that could hit Midwestern farmers, many of whom are strong supporters of the president.

"If during the course of the negotiation they want to hit the farmers because they think that hits me. I wouldn't say that's nice, but I tell you our farmers are great patriots," Trump said. "They understand that they're doing this for the country. We'll make it up to them. In the end they're going

to be much stronger than they are right now."

China is threatening the tariffs in response to Trump moving to enact protectionist measures as punishment for Chinese theft of U.S. intellectual property. The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit if China responds in kind.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump was working with his team "to determine how best to respond to China's attack on American farmers" and had asked the Agriculture Department to provide him with a plan to protect U.S. farmers.

As the economic saber-rattling shakes global markets,

Trump said Monday he had a good relationship with China and with President Xi Jinping, but repeated his claim that China has been "taking advantage of the United States for many years." He added that he doesn't blame China, but American leaders for creating a "lopsided" set of trade rules.

Earlier in the day, Trump tweeted about the "STUPID TRADE" with China, saying that when a Chinese-made vehicle is sent to the U.S., the tariff is only 2.5 percent, while American cars exported to China are slapped with a 25 percent tariff.

China charges total duties of 25 percent on most imported cars—a 10 percent customs tariff plus a 15 percent auto tax. Since December 2016, Beijing also has charged an additional 10 percent on "super-luxury" vehicles priced above 1.3 million yuan (\$200,000).

Abortion objectors may get a pass on health law penalty

WASHINGTON (AP)—Object to abortion? You may be able to get an exemption from the Affordable Care Act tax penalty for people who don't get health insurance.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced final rules Monday for the ACA's health insurance marketplaces, and expanded exemptions were part of the package.

Last year's GOP tax bill repealed the health law's unpopular requirement to carry health insurance or risk fines from the IRS—but that doesn't happen until next year.

Officials said expanded hardship exemptions will go into effect immediately. People who object to abortion can get an exemption if all available health plans in their area cover the procedure.

There's also an exemption for people living in communities that only have one participating ACA insurer, about

half of U.S. counties. In 2016 about 6.5 million people paid fines for being uninsured, averaging \$470. Penalties have gone up since then.

Also on Monday, the administration announced new rules for the ACA marketplaces in 2019, including more options for states to redesign benefits within 10 broad categories required by the health law. Consumer advocates say this could whittle away at comprehensive coverage for people with serious health problems.

But the administration is under pressure from Republican-led states to reduce the cost of health insurance for consumers buying their own policies. One of the ways to do that is by cutting back on benefits.

Customers who don't qualify for subsidies under the Obama-era health law have faced several rounds of steep premium increases. Republican attempts to entirely repeal the law fell short last year, in

one of the biggest defeats for President Donald Trump.

The coverage exemption for abortion objectors is on top of financial hardship exemptions traditionally offered under the ACA. In previous years about twice as many people have been able to get exemptions as paid the fines. The Trump administration's action broadens the list of reasons for an exemption, but it's still unclear how many people will avail themselves of the new options. Individual consumers must apply through HealthCare.gov.

Medicare and Medicaid administrator Seema Verma said the exemption for abortion objectors provides "pro-life Americans" with relief if they are living in an area where the only available ACA plan covers abortion. About half the states already forbid ACA plans from covering abortion, so it's also uncertain how many consumers would qualify for the new exemption.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

23,979.10

+46.34

+0.19%

S&P

2,613.16

+8.69

+0.33%

NASDAQ

6,950.34

+35.23

+0.51%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Philippine Peso	51.97
Australian Dollar	1.29	Indian Rupee	55.2275
British Pound	0.71	Indonesian Rupiah	13748.3
Canadian Dollar	1.27	Japanese Yen	107.18
Chinese Yuan	6.30	Malaysian Ringgit	3.87
Euro	0.81	New Zealand Dollar	1.36
		Singapore Dollar	1.31
		South Korean Won	1065.43
		Swiss Franc	0.96
		Taiwan Dollar	29.18
		Thailand Baht	31.24

Nation

Trump wins pledges of 1,600 troops for Mexico border duty

HOUSTON (AP)—The Republican governors of three southwestern border states on Monday committed 1,600 National Guard members to the U.S.-Mexico border, giving President Donald Trump many of the troops he requested to fight what he's called a crisis of migrant crossings and crime.

Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas all made new pledges that add up to almost half of the up to 4,000 troops Trump requested. Some Guard members started arriving at the border as states and the federal government officials continued to discuss what they will do.

The only holdout border state was California, led by Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown, who has not announced whether troops from his state's National Guard will participate.

Brown has repeatedly fought with Trump over immigration policy. Under the federal law Trump invoked in his proclamation calling for National Guard troops, governors who send troops retain command and control over their state's Guard members and the U.S. government picks up the cost.

Trump said last week he wants to send 2,000 to 4,000 National Guard members to the border, issuing a proclamation citing "the lawless-

ness that continues at our southern border."

"My administration has no choice but to act," he wrote.

Administration officials have said that rising numbers of people being caught at the southern border, while in line with seasonal trends in recent years, require an immediate response.

Apprehensions are still well below their historical trends during the terms of former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, both of whom also deployed the Guard to the border.

In Mexico City, a caravan of Central American migrants that had been heading north stopped in the Mexican capital. The caravan had sparked furious criticism from Trump, followed days later by his National Guard border protection deployment plan. Organizers said they never intended to go to the U.S. border.

Mexico's foreign relations secretary said his government is evaluating its cooperation with the United States.

Luis Videgaray said in a Monday interview with local media that he will give results of the analysis to President Enrique Peña Nieto in coming weeks.

The country's Senate passed a resolution last week saying Mexico



AP
Children from Anapra, Mexico, climb a section of the new border wall recently built near Santa Teresa, N.M., Monday, April 9, 2018.

until the total number reaches at least 1,000 troops.

Some Guard members will be armed if they are placed in potential danger, Abbott said, adding he wanted to downplay speculation that "our National Guard is showing up with military bayonets trying to take on anybody that's coming across the border, because that is not their role."

There is no end date for the deployment, Abbott said: "We may be in this for the long haul."

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez's office said that more than 80 troops would deploy later this week. They will be the first of an expected 250 Guard members from New Mexico to serve on the border.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, a Republican, offered to send members of his state's Guard as well. South Carolina sent troops to the border during Operation Jump Start, the border deployment ordered by Bush in 2006.

In California, Brown's spokesman, Evan Westrup, said Monday that state officials are still reviewing Trump's troop request.

Trump has said he wants to use the military at the border until progress is made on his proposed border wall, which has mostly stalled in Congress. Defense Secretary James Mattis last Friday approved paying for up to 4,000 National Guard personnel from the Pentagon budget through the end of September.

Joel Villarreal, the mayor of Rio Grande City in Texas, said he did not agree with what he characterized as "the militarization of the border."

"It's not good for business, to be frank with you," Villarreal said.

Court: Women can't be paid less than men based on past wages

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Relying on a woman's previous salary to determine her pay for a new job perpetuates disparities in the wages of men and women and is illegal when it results in higher pay for men, a federal appeals court ruled Monday.

The unanimous ruling by an 11-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals came in a lawsuit filed by a California school employee who learned over lunch with colleagues in 2012 that she made thousands of dollars less than her male counterparts.

The 9th Circuit held that pay differences based on prior salaries are inherently discriminatory under the federal Equal Pay Act because the previous salaries were the result of gender bias.

"Women are told they are not worth as much as men," Judge Stephen Reinhardt wrote before he died last month. "Allowing prior salary to justify a wage differential perpetuates this message, entrenching in salary systems an obvious means of discrimination."

Debra Katz, an employment attorney in Washington, D.C., who handles equal pay lawsuits, said the ruling undercut one of the key arguments that employers have made for allowing pay disparities to continue.

"Employers always point to salary history to justify paying an employee less, which just institutionalizes the discrimination," she said.

In the case decided Monday,

plaintiff Aileen Rizo took a job as a math consultant in Fresno County in 2009 after working for several years in Arizona. The policy of the Fresno County superintendent of schools at the time was to add 5 percent to the previous salaries of all new hires.

The policy was "gender-neutral, objective and effective in attracting qualified applicants," Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Jim Yovino responded in a statement Monday saying he will appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Yovino said the policy was applied to more than 3,000 employees over 17 years and had "no disparate impact on female employees."

It's not clear how the school district in Phoenix where Rizo worked arrived at her previous salary. However, 9th Circuit Judge Paul Watford said in a separate opinion that Fresno County failed to show her pay there was not affected by gender discrimination.

Rizo said Monday she cried "tears of joy" when she heard about the ruling. The decision overturned an opinion last year by a smaller panel of 9th Circuit judges that was criticized by equal pay advocates.

A California law signed last year prohibits employers from asking job applicants about prior salaries—a policy adopted by a handful of other states and some cities. The measure is designed to narrow the pay gap between men and women.

should suspend cooperation with the U.S. on illegal immigration and drug trafficking in retaliation for Trump's move.

But Videgaray said "no decision has been taken to reduce or suspend any mechanism or cooperation."

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey told a group of soldiers preparing to deploy from a Phoenix military base that their "mission is about providing manpower and resources" to support

agencies on the border and denied that there was a political motive.

"I don't think this is a partisan issue or an identity issue," he said. "You show me somebody who is for drug cartels or human trafficking or this ammunition that's coming over a wide-open and unprotected border here."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott told San Antonio radio station KTSA that he would add about 300 troops a week

Trump fumes at Mueller probe after raid on attorney

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump has lashed out against special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, branding it "an attack on our country" and exhibiting mounting concern about the yearlong probe after federal authorities raided the offices of his personal attorney.

Caught off guard and furious with the encroaching inquiry, the president showed a flare of temper watching cable news coverage of the raid Monday afternoon, summoning lawyers Ty Cobb and Jay Sekulow to get their opinion of what was happening.

Aides and outside allies described Trump as shaken and increasingly frustrated by the development, and they said his reaction had sparked discussion about whether the raid would usher an unpredictable new phase in how the president responds to the probe.

Trump vented from the Oval Office that Mueller's investigators were "going too far" and conducting "their

witch hunt" to undermine his presidency, according to three people familiar with the president's views but not allowed to discuss them publicly.

Minutes later he publicly unleashed his sharpest invective to date against the sweeping investigation, calling the Monday search "a disgrace."

"It's an attack on our country in a true sense," he said in the Cabinet Room, flanked by the nation's top military brass, who watched the scene stone-faced. "It's an attack on what we all stand for."

Trump let loose after federal agents pierced the protective bubble around him, seizing records from the offices of longtime Trump attorney Michael Cohen, on topics including a \$130,000 payment made to a porn actress who says she had sex with Trump more than a decade ago.

Cohen has been an ardent defender in Trump's business, personal and political affairs for more than a de-

cade—Cohen claims to have used a personal home equity loan to pay the adult film actress, known as Stormy Daniels—and the probe's expansion into the president's inner circle left Trump fuming.

The president didn't bat away the idea of firing Mueller, saying people have advised him to take that action: "Why don't I just fire Mueller? Well, I think it's a disgrace what's going on - we'll see what happens."

He said the raid in New York marked a "whole new level of unfairness" by Mueller and his team.

Trump called the probe a "witch hunt," as he has many times in the past, complaining that it distracts from serious issues such as consideration of a military response to the apparent use of a chemical weapon on Syrian civilians over the weekend. That was one of the intended subjects of his Monday evening meeting with the defense secretary, the joint chiefs of staff and U.S. combat commanders.

Asia

Japanese arrested for reportedly caging son for 20 years

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese police said Monday they have arrested a 73-year-old man who reportedly kept his disabled son locked in a small wooden cage for more than 20 years.

Hyogo prefectural police said Yoshitane Yamasaki was arrested Saturday and handed over to prosecutors on Monday for further investigation.

Yamasaki acknowledged to police that he had kept his son, now 42, in the cage inside a hut next to his home in Hyogo prefecture in western Japan

until January, when he turned himself in to city officials. He was seeking advice on nursing care for his wife, but revealed what he had done to his son, police said.

The officials visited his home and found the son sitting on a toilet sheet for pets inside the cage, which was slightly bigger than a coffin. He was exposed from the waist down, though Yamasaki told officials it wasn't usually the case and that he had bathed and fed his son every other day.

Yamasaki told police he started confining his son when he became violent years ago. Japanese media said the son was caged for more than 20 years, but police would not confirm that number.

He told city officials that he was afraid his son was a nuisance to neighbors who had repeatedly complained, Kyodo News service reported. Yamasaki reportedly consulted with social workers and city officials about his son at about that time, but

it was unclear if anyone followed up with the family.

In Japan, people with disabilities often face prejudice. Human rights groups say people with mental illnesses are often kept in hospitals or special institutions unnecessarily for years, isolating them from the rest of society.

Apparently due to years of confinement in the 1-meter (3-foot) -high cage in which he could not stand up, the son's back was bent and he was nearly blind because

of infections from the filthy conditions, according to the Yomiuri newspaper and other Japanese media reports.

Police said they were still investigating and declined to give details about the son's condition, except to say that he

had no life-threatening injuries or illness, and has since been cared for by a welfare center.

Police are also looking into whether neighbors did not notice his confinement and why it was unreported for so long if he had been violent and noisy.

ASIAN BRIEFS

23 children die in India when school bus plunges into gorge

NURPUR, India (AP)—A school bus plunged off a mountain road Monday into a deep gorge in the Himalayan foothills, killing 23 children, some as young as 4, Indian officials said. Four adults also died, said Sandeep Kumar, a local official. Ten children were hospitalized. Initial reports indicated the bus driver was speeding as he took the children home and lost control at the edge of the gorge. The bus fell some 200 feet (60 meters) to the ground below, said police officer Sunil Kumar. The adults killed included the bus driver, two teachers and another woman, officials said. Most of the children riding in the bus were believed to be in elementary school. The crash occurred in the Kangra Valley, about 500 kilometers (300 miles) north of New Delhi.

Indonesia seizes fishing boat with alleged slave workers

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's navy has seized a fishing boat carrying 20 crewmembers, including 14 Indonesians believed to be trafficking victims who were forced to work for years without pay, officials said Monday. Maritime and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti said a navy ship intercepted the STS-50 about 60 miles (95 kilometers) from Weh Island in Aceh province last Friday, a day after a tip from Interpol saying the vessel was heading to Indonesian waters. Pudjiastuti said the boat was carrying six Russians, including the captain, and 14 Indonesians. "The STS-50 has allegedly committed an organized transnational crime," Pudjiastuti said. She said the boat is believed to have falsified its identity many times and used the flags of eight different countries, including Japan, South Korea, Sierra Leone, Cambodia and Micronesia, to facilitate illegal fishing in the waters of many nations.

3 former US Army soldiers go on trial in contract killing

NEW YORK (AP)—A for-

mer U.S. Army sniper and two other ex-American soldiers agreed to become contract killers for an international crime boss who wanted to settle a score with a real estate agent in the Philippines he thought had cheated him on a land deal, a prosecutor said Tuesday in opening statements at the trial of the three men. Joseph Hunter, a one-time sergeant with a Special Forces background, Adam Samia and Carl David Stillwell have denied they planned the 2012 execution-style hit — a case that's provided an inside glimpse into the secret fraternity of private mercenaries willing to kill in cold blood for cash. Prosecutors said the 52-year-old Hunter was working as a security chief for weapons and drug trafficker Paul Le Roux when he recruited Samia and Stillwell to travel from their homes in Roxboro, North Carolina, to the Philippines for what was called "ninja work." Hunter provided firearms and silencers and told them Le Roux would pay them \$35,000 a piece to get the job done, Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Egan said in federal court in Manhattan. The broker, Catherine Lee, was on a "kill list" that self-styled assassins with military backgrounds saw as a golden opportunity, Egan said. "If Paul Le Roux wanted somebody killed, these guys got the call," he said. "For these men, more murders meant more money."

Suicide bomber wounds 5 troops in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Police in Pakistan say a suicide bomber has struck a vehicle carrying security forces in the southwestern city of Quetta, wounding five soldiers. Senior police official Aslam Tareen says Monday's attack took place in a residential area. He said the wounded troops have been transported to a hospital where some were listed in critical condition. No one immediately claimed responsibility, but past attacks on security forces have been blamed on Islamic militants and Baluch separatists.



AP

Police officers hide the face of arrested Japanese Yoshitane Yamasaki with a sheet while escorting him to a police vehicle to leave for Prosecutor's Office for further investigation, in Sanda City, western Japan, Monday, April 9, 2018.

Kim Jong Un briefs party leaders on future dialogue with US

TOKYO (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un briefed top ruling party officials on his vision for the future direction of dialogue with the United States and his upcoming summit with South Korea's president, the North's official media reported Tuesday.

Kim gave his "profound analysis and appraisal" of the prospects for North Korea-U.S. dialogue at a meeting of the Politburo of the ruling party's Central Committee, the Korean Central News Agency reported. The meeting was held on Monday.

The KCNA report did not specifically mention plans for Kim to hold a summit with President Donald Trump, expected in May or June, but it suggests Pyongyang is actively preparing for the meeting and is ready to

let North Koreans know big events may be ahead.

The North's official media has thus far made virtually no mention of the series of stunning diplomatic overtures Kim has made toward Seoul and Washington since January, though it did trumpet Kim's visit to Beijing last month to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

That was the first time Kim has left the North since assuming power in 2011 and was also his first meeting with another head of state.

North Korea's parliament, called the Supreme People's Assembly, is scheduled to convene Wednesday. The assembly generally convenes once a year to approve the national budget and other policy and personnel issues that have already been decided on by

Kim and the party leadership.

According to the KCNA report, the party leaders who met Monday approved a budget for this year that will be presented to the parliament.

It said Kim outlined in detail his analysis on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and mentioned the North-South summit, which will be held on the south side of the DMZ on April 27.

He then discussed the "prospect of the DPRK-U.S. dialogue and set forth the strategic and tactical issues" to be maintained by the party.

Though the report did not explicitly mention plans for the summit with Trump, it was the most concrete suggestion to date that Pyongyang is preparing for what would be the first-ever summit between a North Korean leader and a sit-

ting U.S. president.

Trump said Monday their meeting might be in late May or even in June. The location has yet to be announced.

The main issue at the summit will be North Korea's nuclear program.

Speaking at the White House on Monday, Trump expressed hope that a deal to get Pyongyang to denuclearize might be made. Administration officials say the North has communicated that Kim is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program.

Questions remain about what conditions Kim might tack on to any denuclearization agreement.

Wednesday's parliament meeting could provide further clues as to what approach Kim might intend to take for the negotiation.

World

Trump threatens Syria strike, suggests Russia shares blame

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Monday threatened an imminent military strike against Syria, vowing to respond “forcefully” to Saturday’s apparent chemical weapons attack on civilians and warning that Russia or any other nation found to share responsibility will “pay a price.”

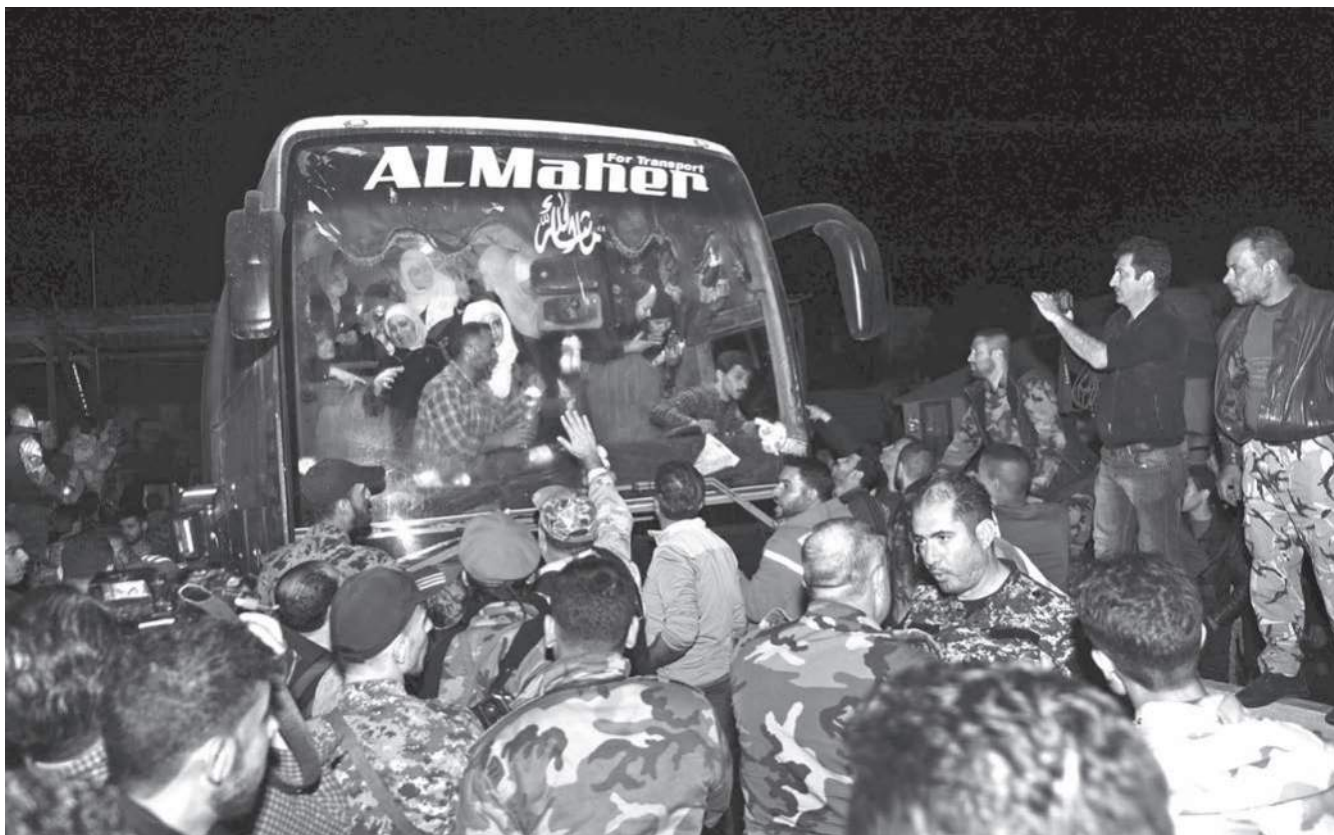
As he began an evening meeting with military leaders at the White House, Trump promised to “make a decision tonight or very shortly thereafter.” He said: “We have a lot of options militarily, and we’ll be letting you know pretty soon. Probably after the fact.”

The White House sharply rejected any suggestion that Trump’s own words about pulling U.S. troops out of Syria had opened the door for the attack, which killed more than 40 people, including children.

Trump, asked at midday whether Russian President Vladimir Putin bore any responsibility for the weekend attack, responded: “He may, yeah, he may. And if he does it’s going to be very tough, very tough.” He added: “Everybody’s gonna pay a price. He will. Everybody will.”

Then, during the meeting with top military leaders, he said the weekend assault “will be met and it will be met forcefully.” Those at the meeting included Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford.

Amid the tough talk at the



In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, soldiers and residents salute civilians after they were released by the Army of Islam group that had held them since 2013, in Damascus, Syria, early Monday, April 9, 2018.

White House, the U.S. military appeared to be in position to carry out any attack order. A Navy destroyer, the USS Donald Cook, was underway in the eastern Mediterranean after completing a port call in Cyprus. The guided missile destroyer is armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, the weapon of choice in a U.S. attack one year ago on an airfield in Syria following an alleged sarin gas attack on civilians.

The Russian military, which

has a presence in Syria as a key Assad ally, said its officers had visited the weekend site in a suburb of Damascus, the Syrian capital, and found no evidence to back up reports of poison gas being used. Russia’s U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, accused Washington of deliberately stoking international tensions by threatening Russia in a tone “beyond the threshold of what is acceptable, even during the Cold War.”

Trump said there was little

question that Syria was responsible for the apparent weekend attack, although the government of President Bashar Assad denied it. “To me there’s not much of a doubt, but the generals will figure it out,” Trump said.

Emphatic in his condemnation of the apparent gas attack, Trump noted graphic pictures of the dead and sickened, calling the assault “heinous,” “atrocious,” “horrible” and “barbaric.”

Fielding questions at the

White House, Trump press secretary Sarah Sanders said it would be “outrageous” to say that Trump’s recent announcement that he intends to remove all U.S. forces from Syria in the coming months had emboldened Assad. “I think that it is outrageous to say that the president of the United States green-lit something as atrocious as the actions that have taken place over the last several days,” she said.

Mattis, in separate remarks at the Pentagon, also sug-

gested Moscow bore some blame. He criticized Russia for what he suggested was its failure to ensure the elimination of Syria’s chemical weapons arsenal under terms of a 2013 agreement.

Trump said no action was “off the table” and also conferred with Vice President Mike Pence and his new national security adviser, John Bolton. Monday was the first day on the job for Bolton, who has previously advocated military action against Syria.

Trump said, “If it’s Russia, if it’s Syria, if it’s Iran, if it’s all of them together, we’ll figure it out.”

The United States, meanwhile, urged the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution that would condemn the continuing use of chemical weapons in Syria “in the strongest terms” and establish a new body to determine responsibility for chemical attacks. The draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, was circulated ahead of an emergency Security Council meeting.

An American official said the U.S. was discussing with allies whether they would participate in a retaliatory strike. If Trump decides to proceed quickly, the most likely partner would be France rather than Britain, because of concerns about obtaining permission from Parliament, said the official, who wasn’t authorized to discuss the planning publicly and requested anonymity.

In blow to peace, Colombia jails ex-rebel on US drug warrant

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombian authorities arrested a former top rebel peace negotiator on a U.S. drug warrant Monday, delivering a major blow to the country’s already teetering attempts to put a half century of political violence behind it.

Seuxis Hernandez, a blind rebel ideologue best known by his alias Jesus Santrich, was picked up at his residence in Bogota on charges that he conspired with three others to smuggle several tons of cocaine into the U.S. with a wholesale value of \$15 million.

According to an Interpol notice, Santrich met with cocaine buyers at his residence on Nov. 2, 2017, a day after one of his co-conspirators delivered a 5-kilogram sample of the narcotic to them at a hotel lobby in Bogota. During the meeting and subsequent negotiations, he and his co-conspirators allegedly discussed plans for a 10-ton drug

shipment to the U.S., boasting they had access to cocaine laboratories and U.S.-registered planes to produce and move the drugs inside Colombia, the world’s largest producer of the illegal narcotic.

President Juan Manuel Santos confirmed the arrest in a nationally televised address, saying that his “hand won’t shake” in signing off on Santrich’s extradition in order to safeguard the peace agreement’s integrity.

Under terms of the accord aimed at ending Latin America’s longest-running conflict, rebels who lay down their weapons and confess their war crimes to special peace tribunals are to be spared jail time and extradition. But they aren’t protected for crimes committed after the December 2016 signing.

“The construction of peace requires the absolute commitment and respect for the law and the accords,” Santos said. “This is what the Colombian

people demand. In this aspect, there can’t be any room for tolerance or weakness.”

Santrich’s former comrades in arms accused the government of trying to sabotage the peace process.

“This is the worst moment that the peace process has gone through,” said the former rebel leader known as Ivan Marquez, who served as chief negotiator during the peace talks. “The government has to act to prevent judicial set-ups like these from spinning out of control and generating a great deal of mistrust among all of the guerrillas.”

But Chief Prosecutor Nestor Martinez said a New York grand jury handed down an indictment after evaluating evidence, including videos and communications, that indicated Santrich and three other co-conspirators who were also arrested hatched a plan in the second half of 2017 to smuggle into the U.S. cocaine with a street value of \$320 million.

Hamas leader, Israel PM dig in on Gaza border flare-up

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The leader of Gaza’s ruling Hamas group and Israel’s prime minister staked out tough positions Monday, making de-escalation on the Israel-Gaza border in the near future unlikely.

Since late March, 26 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds wounded by Israeli fire in mass border protests led by Hamas, but also driven by widespread desperation over the territory’s decade-old border blockade by Israel and Egypt.

The protests are seen, in part, as an attempt by Hamas to break the blockade.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh renewed a pledge Monday that the marches would pave the way for a return of Palestinian refugees and their descendants to what is now Israel.

“We will return to Palestine, our villages and Jerusalem,” Haniyeh said in a fiery speech at one of five protest camps set

up along the border.

He stopped short of threatening a mass breach of the border, though another Hamas leader has done so in recent speeches.

Israel has accused Hamas of using the protests as a cover for carrying out attacks and bringing infiltrators into Israel. It has said some of those at the border tried to damage the fence, planted explosives or hurled firebombs.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Sderot, an Israeli community near Gaza, and said Israel’s top priority is its security.

“We have one clear and simple rule and we seek to express it constantly: If someone tries to attack you—rise up and attack him,” Netanyahu said. “We will not allow, here on the Gaza border, them to hurt us. We will hurt them.”

Israel has said it has the right to defend its sovereign border, amid mounting international expressions of con-

cern about the escalation of the past 10 days.

Israel’s military said Monday night that it is “thoroughly” investigating after media broadcast video that appears to show a soldier shooting a Palestinian near the Gaza fence as audio of other soldiers are heard cheering when the individual falls.

The circumstances of the shooting are unclear. Israeli media said the footage was taken during the recent border clashes. The military said the incident apparently occurred several months ago.

On Sunday, the chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court said Israel’s “violence against civilians—in a situation such as one prevailing in Gaza” may constitute war crimes. But in an apparent reference to Hamas, she also said “the use of civilian presence for the purpose of shielding military activities” could also be a war crime.

Focus

Missionaries

at border spread Christianity to North Korea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and
GERRY SHIH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTHERN JILIN PROVINCE, China (AP)—To the North Koreans gathered beneath a crucifix in an apartment in this northeastern Chinese border region, she is known as “mom.” She feeds them, gives them a place to stay and, on occasion, money.

In return, the 69-year-old Korean-Chinese woman asks them to study the Bible, pray and sing hymns. She also has a more ambitious, and potentially dangerous, goal: She wants the most trusted of her converts to return to North Korea and spread Christianity there.

Along the North Korean border, dozens of such missionaries are engaged in work that puts them and their North Korean converts in danger. Most are South Koreans, but others, like the woman, are ethnic Koreans whose families have lived in China for generations. In recent years, 10 such front-line missionaries and pastors have died mysteriously, according to the Rev. Kim Kyou Ho, head of the Seoul-based Chosen People Network, a Christian group that runs a memorial hall in the South Korean capital for the victims. North Korea is suspected in all those deaths.

Hundreds of other missionaries have been imprisoned or expelled by China, which bans foreigners from proselytizing.

It is perilous work. Li Baiguang, a Chinese human rights lawyer whose work defending Christian pastors and farmers had prompted repeated death threats, died on Feb. 26, hours after being admitted to a Chinese military hospital for what his relatives described as a minor stomach ailment.

The case has prompted calls for an independent investigation from Amnesty International and the Washington-based National Endowment for Democracy, which noted Li had been “detained and physically attacked many times” for his work and cited reports he had recently appeared to be in good health.

The Korean-Chinese woman said she is monitored by both North Korean and Chinese authorities, yet, despite the risks, has carried out 20 years of missionary work with North Koreans, mostly women who are in China legally after being granted visas to visit relatives living there.

“I always pray and I’m with God, so I’m not worried,” said the woman, who despite that assertion asked that her name not be published because of

safety concerns for herself, her family and the North Koreans to whom she ministers.

She lives so close to North Korea that it is common to see women doing laundry on the other side of the Yalu River or workers riding bicycles past rundown North Korean buildings just a stone’s throw away.

The border missionaries provide their North Korean visitors with room and board, and those escaping with places to hide. In return, they ask them to memorize the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed and other prayers. Some of the most trusted converts return home to North Korea and covertly share what they’ve learned, sometimes carrying Bibles.

It’s almost impossible to determine what happens when those North Koreans return home to evangelize. From the outside, there is no indication that Christianity has grown in any serious manner in the North in recent years, let alone that it’s helping shake North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s power.

The North accuses South Korea’s spy agency of using missionaries to gather information about North Korea’s secretive nuclear program and other sensitive topics, as well as to smuggle propaganda materials via leaflets, CDs and USB sticks, and to build underground churches to undermine Kim’s leadership—allegations the Seoul government strongly denies.

At least two South Korean pastors are detained in the North on such charges.

Officially, North Korea says



In this April 3, 2018, photo, the Rev. Kim Kyou Ho, head of the Seoul-based Chosen People Network, a Christian group that runs a memorial hall in the South Korean capital for the victims, shows a portrait of the Rev. Han Chung-ryeol, right, a Chinese pastor of Korean descent who headed a front-line church in the Chinese border town of Changbai before he was found dead of multiple stab wounds and a punctured skull in April 2016, at his office in Seoul, South Korea.



In this March 8, 2018, photo, Eric Foley, the American co-founder of Voice of the Martyrs Korea unveils a photo showing Korean-Chinese pastor Han Chung-ryeol, left, a Chinese pastor of Korean descent who headed a front-line church in the Chinese border town of Changbai before he was found dead of multiple stab wounds and a punctured skull in April 2016, during an interview at his office in Seoul, South Korea.

it guarantees freedom of religion to its 24 million people. But in reality, people involved in Bible distribution, secret prayer services and underground church networks are imprisoned or executed, according to activists and defectors. The North has five government-sanctioned churches in Pyongyang, but critics say they are showpiece facilities opened only for foreign visitors.

Among the missionaries and pastors killed under mysterious circumstances in recent years is the Rev. Han Chung-ryeol, a Chinese pastor of Korean descent who headed a front-line church in the Chinese border town of Changbai before he was found dead of multiple stab wounds and a punctured skull in April 2016, raising suspicions that North Korea was involved.

Chinese police recently told his family that surveillance video had captured images of three men and a woman suspected of being North Korean agents crossing the border before and after the 49-year-old pastor’s slaying, Han’s sister, Han Song-shi, told The Associated Press. She said Chinese authorities told the family the North didn’t respond to Chinese requests to extradite the suspects.

North Korea instead sent a letter to the state religious affairs bureau in Changbai saying it had arrested one of Han’s church deacons, Zhang Wenshi, and sentenced him to 15 years hard labor, according to two people with direct knowledge of the case who spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing retribution from North Korea and China.

In a copy of the letter seen by the AP, North Korea accused Zhang of conspiring with Han in a plot to evangelize North Koreans, smuggle them out of the country and subvert the North’s government. But the letter stopped short of acknowledging that North Korean agents killed Han.

A spokeswoman for the Changbai police department would not confirm the family’s account, saying only: “We have no obligation to release the details of the investigation to the media.” A state-run North Korean website denied any involvement in Han’s slaying, accusing South Korea’s then-conservative government of being behind a scheme to foster anti-Pyongyang sentiment.

Though Han was little known to international media before his death, he was an important figure in the risky, covert work to promote Christianity in the North, which views such efforts as a Western-led plot to topple its government. At the Chinese government-registered church in Changbai where he had worked since the early 1990s, he fed and sheltered thousands of North Koreans over the years - many of whom had fled their famine-stricken country in search of food and jobs - while also converting hundreds of them to Christianity.

Eric Foley, the American co-founder of Voice of the Martyrs Korea, a Seoul-based Christian nonprofit group that provided funding, Bibles

and other resources for Han’s work, said he believed the Chinese authorities looked the other way about Han’s proselytizing because they considered his charitable work to be a “social service” that helped allay potential problems like crime, unemployment and homelessness among the North Koreans in Changbai.

“That allowed him to do that work in a level of volume that was unparalleled up and down the border,” Foley said. He insisted, however, that Han did not facilitate defections of North Koreans to South Korea, which is banned by China.

However, seven other defectors and activists interviewed by the AP said Han did sometimes help North Korean defectors flee to South Korea, though he was reluctant to do so for fear of angering the Chinese authorities and imperiling the work of his church. Choi Sung-ryong, a Seoul-based activist, said he resettled 10 North Koreans in South Korea at the request of one of Han’s deacons.

When one of his converts volunteered to return to North Korea to share the “love of God” with her countrymen in 2011, the woman said Han smiled at her, asked her to memorize as many Bible phrases as possible and gave her 5,000 yuan (\$800) to buy a house in the North that she could use as a gathering place for underground Christians.

“He told me that house would be a church or a place for God,” said the North Korean woman, who has since defected to South Korea and spoke on condition of anonymity because of concerns for the safety of her relatives in the North.

As a result of his risky work, North Korean defectors, including the woman, had long warned Han that the Pyongyang authorities had him on the country’s most-wanted list. Han knew he was “at the top of a blacklist by the North’s Ministry of State Security,” the North Korean woman said.

The Rev. John Kim, a defector who is now a pastor in Seoul, said he was questioned about Han as far back as 2003 when he slipped back into North Korea to try to spread the Gospel. Soldiers approached him as he was doing laundry at a river and “they asked me whether I knew a bastard named Han Chung-ryeol,” said Kim. “So I asked them who he was, and they said they had to arrest him.”

As for the congregants Han left behind, their sentiments are reflected in the message on a banner they hung on the front gate of their red-brick church in Changbai: “Martyr and pastor, Han Chung-ryeol is our pride!”

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING: *Granny's sweetshrub* now has the wow factor

By **NORMAN WINTER**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The first time I saw the native sweetshrub I instantly fell in love with it, the small deep burgundy flowers and fragrance was an instant lure. I would see them at old homes and plant swaps but not so much in the marketplace.

It is known botanically as *Calycanthus floridus* and is native in more than 20 states in the Eastern United States, as far north as New York. In addition to the name sweetshrub, it is also called Carolina allspice and spicebush. Those names sound pretty marketable to me.

The western United States is not without its own version. The California allspice, *Calycanthus occidentalis* is somewhat similar, thinner petals and a little less fragrance. Both native versions, however, have been used in breeding to turn the sweetshrub world upside down.

The first is Hartlage Wine developed by North Carolina State University. My horticulture coordinator at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens planted one in our shade garden under the guise of sweetshrub a most pleasant surprise.

Last May as I was taking a walk to survey how things were progressing I felt as though I had found a treasure. Hartlage Wine was blooming, and I instantly recognized it as sweetshrub but 'Holy Wow' the flowers were larger than tennis balls and yielded a pleasant fragrance.



Aphrodite is a cross between the California allspice and the Chinese wax plant. **TNS**



Venus sweetshrub is known to have the largest flowers and most intense fragrance reminiscent of strawberries and melons. **TNS**



Hartlage Wine sweetshrub seen at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah has flowers over 3 inches. **TNS**



Sweet shrubs like this Aphrodite can be used as a cutflower and emanating a wonderful fragrance. **TNS**

Hartlage Wine was created by an NC State grad student Richard Hartlage making a cross with the native *Calycanthus floridus* and the Chinese

wax plant one *Calycanthus chinensis*. A long bloom period and fall yellow color make this plant have award winner written all over it and needs to

be in woodland gardens everywhere.

North Carolina State University, Mills River, NC also made an outstanding cross

called Aphrodite. It is a hybrid between the California allspice and the Chinese wax plant. Aphrodite has even more fragrance, a longer bloom period

and flowers showing a little yellow in the center.

If fragrance is your goal however than look for Venus. Venus also a N.C. State product is a cross between all three, *C. floridus*, *C. occidentalis* and *C. chinensis*. The result is a flower that is white, magnolia-like with all of the sepals or tepals opened and bringing you under the 'spell of the smell' that has been described as the scent of strawberries and melons.

These shrubs are cold hardy from zones 5-9 and perform best in fertile, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. The more sun the moisture will be needed. At the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, we had ours planted under tall pines with high shifting light. The results couldn't be more perfect.

Expect yours to reach 5 to 10 feet tall and as wide depending on variety. As true to the native species expect then to offer root suckers. Remove these to create a more picturesque structure. The yellow fall color is a great addition to the woodland garden where it will stand out from quite a distance. Many will be ecstatic to know these are not on the deer menu!

The sweetshrub of our grandparent's era was nice, but these are better and so much showier. What's extra special is that now they are available in garden centers. I hope you will plant some and make some fragrant memories for your children.

My favorite day of the year is the first day the birds wake me, and each year, that day comes in April. It's a day that feels hopeful and happy from the moment I open my eyes. It's around that time that the crocuses, daffodils, pansies, tulips and rhododendrons return, too. And with them the weeds, pests and diseases — and these tips and chores to keep them at bay, and breathe life into another year in the garden.

1. Lilies are traditional, but, for a change, consider decorating this year with Easter cactus, *Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*.

2. No need to run the sprinkler this month; the lawn won't need watering yet, unless you've seeded.

3. If rose of Sharon needs pruning, now's your chance.

4. Plant strawberries in the garden, but not where tomatoes, peppers or potatoes have grown in the past three years.

5. Plant blackberries and raspberries outdoors.

6. Prune roses, and plant new bareroots.

7. Dig a trench 18 inches wide and deep, and plant asparagus.

8. Plant potatoes and sweet potatoes.

Your April calendar of gardening chores



TNS
Magnolias.

9. If seedlings started indoors grow leggy, pinch off tips to encourage fullness.

10. If you're planning to move houseplants outdoors this summer, repot them now into a pot that's 2 inches wider.

11. Divide crowded bog plants.

12. Rake the garden to remove residual leaves and plant debris.

13. When forsythia blooms on your block, it's time to apply pre-emergent crab grass control like corn gluten meal.

14. If it's cloudy, uncover the fig tree, then water well.

15. Today is the average last frost date on Long Island — go on and plant perennials.

16. For the healthiest plants, install a drip-irrigation system to direct water straight to roots.

17. If there's moss in your lawn, spread lime according to package directions.

18. Plant grapes.

19. Scratch a half-cup of Epsom salts into the soil beneath roses now,

and they'll grow full and produce more blooms.

20. Harden off cole plant seedlings (broccoli, cauliflower and kale) before planting outdoors next week.

21. Divide fall-bloomers like Joe Pye Weed and asters.

22. Happy Earth Day! Consider starting a compost pile. Read my instructions at newsday.com/gardening101.

23. Remove spent flower heads from pansies to prolong their bloom time.

24. Till a generous helping of compost into prepared garden beds to add nutrients and improve drainage.

25. If chrysanthemums are three or more years old, dig up and divide them when new growth is 4 inches tall.

26. Plant cole crops outdoors.

27. It's Arbor Day: The best day to plant trees in New York.

28. Let foliage from spring bulb plants turn brown before removing.

29. Deadhead rhododendrons immediately after flowering, and prune azaleas after they bloom.

30. When grass reaches 3 inches tall you can start mowing, but don't fertilize until Memorial Day. (*Newsday*)

Life & Style

Porn star's lawyer promises sketch of man who threatened her

WASHINGTON (AP)—The attorney for a porn actress who says she had sex with President Donald Trump said late Monday that he may delay releasing a composite sketch of the person he says threatened Stormy Daniels to stay quiet.

Michael Avenatti said early Monday that he would release the sketch Tuesday, along with details of a reward for help identifying the person. He said late in the day that the timeline might change, after news broke about federal raid of the offices of Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen. But Avenatti said he still expected to release the information this week.

Federal agents raided Cohen's offices Monday, seizing records on topics including a \$130,000 payment made to Daniels. The actress says she had sex with Trump once in 2006 and was paid by Cohen days before the 2016 presi-

dential election as part of a nondisclosure agreement she is seeking to invalidate.

Avenatti said Monday that a "sizeable monetary reward" will be offered to anyone providing information identifying the person that Daniels says threatened her in a Las Vegas parking lot in 2011. He said the sketch will help provide "additional details about what happened here."

A hard-charging attorney who has relentlessly kept the case in the headlines, Avenatti said "common sense dictates" that this person could only have been someone associated with Trump or the Trump Organization. He said the money would likely come from a crowd-sourced legal fund.

Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, said in a recent interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" that she was threatened to keep quiet by an unidentified man in a Las

Vegas parking lot in 2011 when she was with her infant daughter. Avenatti tweeted a photo Sunday that he said showed Daniels sitting with a forensic sketch artist to develop a sketch.

The "60 Minutes" interview prompted a lawyer for Trump attorney Michael Cohen to demand that Daniels publicly apologize to his client for suggesting Cohen was involved in her intimidation. Daniels responded by filing a revised federal lawsuit accusing Cohen of defamation.

Avenatti is also pushing to have Trump and Cohen answer questions under oath. He refiled a motion in federal court in Los Angeles Sunday, seeking a jury trial and to depose Trump and Cohen. If successful, it would be the first



Daniels

deposition of a sitting president since Bill Clinton in 1998 had to answer questions about his conduct with women.

Trump answered questions about Daniels for the first time last week, saying

he had no knowledge of the payment made by Cohen and adding that he didn't know where Cohen had gotten the money. The White House has consistently said Trump denies the affair and Cohen has held that he made the payment out of his own pocket, without involvement from the Trump Organization or the Trump campaign.

Cohen did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment Sunday.

Avenatti filed a similar motion over a week ago, which a judge deemed premature.

He refiled after Trump asked a federal judge to order private arbitration in the case. Trump and Cohen filed papers last week asking a judge to rule that the case must be heard by an arbitrator instead of a jury. Avenatti opposes private arbitration.

In the filing, Avenatti says

he wants to question Trump and Cohen for "no more than two hours." He says the depositions are needed to establish if Trump knew about the settlement agreement and if he "truly did not know about the \$130,000 payment." He also asks if Trump was involved in any effort to "silence" Daniels.

Bill Cosby's \$3.4M settlement: Evidence of guilt or greed?

NORRISTOWN, Pa.

(AP)—The defense in Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial is expected to use its opening statement on Tuesday to portray a \$3.4 million settlement paid to the woman he's charged with sexually assaulting as evidence of her greed.

Cosby lawyer Tom Mesereau has signaled he intends to use the settlement to argue that Andrea Constand falsely accused the man once revered as "America's Dad" in hopes of landing a big payoff.

District Attorney Kevin Steele revealed the previously secret settlement amount in his opening statement on Monday, but didn't connect the dots to the prosecution's earlier suggestions that Cosby wouldn't have paid out so much money if the accusations against him were false.

Mesereau, who won an acquittal in Michael Jackson's 2005 child molestation case, has said the jury will learn "just how greedy" Constand was.

The settlement amount had been confidential—and was kept out of the first trial—but a judge ruled that both sides could discuss it at this one.

"The question that I'm sure we're going to hear a lot about is, why would an innocent man pay \$3.38 million for something he didn't do?" said lawyer Dennis McAndrews, who prosecuted chemical heir John E. duPont for murder in 1997 and is not associated with the Cosby retrial.

Cosby, 80, is charged with drugging and molesting Constand, a former employee of Temple University's basketball program, at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

Constand says he gave her pills that made her woozy, and then penetrated her with his fingers as she lay incapacitated, unable to tell him to stop.

Cosby's first trial last spring ended with the jury hopelessly deadlocked. His retrial is expected to last a month.

Cosby faces three counts of aggravated indecent assault, each punishable by up to 10

years in prison.

At a pretrial hearing last month, Assistant District Attorney Stewart Ryan previewed how the prosecution might counter the defense's allegations that Constand was setting up Cosby. He alluded to a 1997 case in which Autumn Jackson threatened to go public with claims she was Cosby's daughter unless he paid her \$40 million.

"Of course, people attempted to extort the defendant in the past, and what did he do? He called the police," Ryan said.

Ahead of opening statements, a topless protester who appeared on several episodes of "The Cosby Show" as a child jumped a barricade and got within a few feet of Cosby as the comedian entered the courthouse.

The woman, whose body was scrawled with the names of more than 50 Cosby accusers as well as the words "Women's Lives Matter," ran in front of Cosby and toward a bank of TV cameras but was intercepted by sheriff's deputies and led away in handcuffs. Cosby seemed startled by the commotion as a half-dozen protesters chanted at him.

The protester, Nicolle Rochelle, 39, of Little Falls, New Jersey, was charged with disorderly conduct and released.

"The main goal was to make Cosby uncomfortable because that is exactly what he has been doing for decades to women," she said afterward.

Rochelle, an actress, said she didn't have any bad experiences with Cosby when she was on the show, nor did she intend to physically hurt him. She is a member of the European feminist group Femen, which is known for staging topless protests around the world.

Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt praised deputies for their quick action but urged court officials to increase security. Officials added a second row of barricades, and Cosby left court without incident Monday afternoon.

'Simpsons' reference to Apu criticism sparks backlash

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The Simpsons" briefly addressed Sunday criticism of its portrayal of its Indian shop owner, Apu. But a comedian who helped spark a conversation about the character calls the show's response "sad" and attacked the show on Twitter for reducing a discussion about racism to political correctness.

Sunday's episode featured Marge sharing her favorite childhood book with her daughter, Lisa. Marge realizes the book is more racist and offensive than she remembered and attempts to edit it as she reads. The story, titled "The Princess in the Garden," contains stereotypes about people of Irish and Latin American descent.

Lisa reacts to the story by saying, "Something that started decades ago and was applauded and inoffensive is now politically incorrect. What can you do?" A photo of Apu appears and Marge says, "Some things will be dealt with at a later date" and Lisa adds, "if at all."

Comedian Hari Kondabolu, who wrote the documentary "The Problem With Apu" about how marginalized groups are represented in pop culture, called Sunday's scene a "jab" at progress.

"In 'The Problem with Apu,' I used Apu & The Simpsons as an entry point into a larger conversation about the representation of marginalized groups," Kondabolu thumbed



In this July 21, 2007, file photo, characters from The Simpsons pose before the premiere of "The Simpsons Movie," at the town's movie theater in Springfield, Vt.

out in a tweet. "The Simpsons response tonight is not a jab at me, but at what many of us consider progress."

After journalists reached out to Kondabolu following Sunday's episode, he tweeted, "Congratulations to the Simpsons for being talked about & being seen as relevant again."

Other South Asians also took to social media to blast the episode over the small mention of Apu.

Chris Alexander, a spokesman for 20th Century Fox Television, said the show's producers are declining comment and prefer to let the episode speak for itself.

On the show, Apu runs the Kwik-E-Mart, where he sells expired food, rips off customers and delivers the singsongy slogan, "Thank you, come again."

People of South Asian heritage have criticized the heavily accented Apu character for reinforcing stereotypes which they say led to world bullying, self-loathing and embarrassment.

The character is voiced by Hank Azaria, a white Jewish man who was raised in the New York borough of Queens.

Azaria told reporters at the Television Critics Association press tour in January that

"The Simpsons" producers planned to address the controversy around Apu. "The idea that anybody, young or old, past or present, was bullied or teased or worse based on the character of Apu on 'The Simpsons,' the voice or any other tropes of the character is distressing," he said.

"This character—the only representation that we have—led a lot of kids who were born and raised here to feel non-American," Kondabolu, who also grew up in Queens, told The AP last year. "If you don't nip racism in the bud from the beginning, it mutates and finds other ways of surviving."

Asher and Alexie books among most objected to in 2017

NEW YORK (AP)—Before allegations of sexual harassment, Jay Asher and Sherman Alexie were facing criticisms of a different kind.

Asher's "Thirteen Reasons Why" and Alexie's "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" top the American Library Association's list of "challenged" books from 2017, those most objected to by parents and other community members. The list also includes Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" and one of last year's top-selling young adult novels, Angie Thomas' "The Hate U Give."

Complaints about books

Spike Lee's 'BlackKkKlansman' to open in August

NEW YORK (AP)—Spike Lee's "BlackKkKlansman" will open in theaters on the one-year anniversary of the violent protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white nationalists marched and a counterprotester was killed.

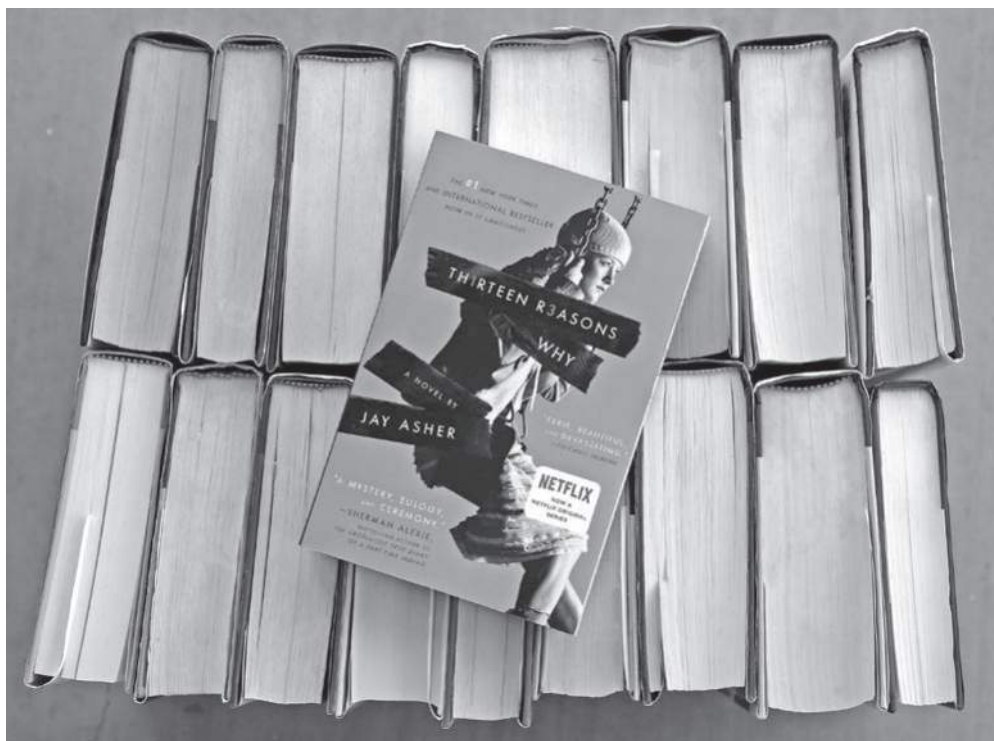
Focus Features on Monday announced that Lee's newly retitled drama will be released Aug. 10. The film is about the real-life story of Ron Stallworth, a black police officer in Colorado who went undercover in 1978 to infiltrate the Ku Klux Klan. John David Washington plays Stallworth in the film and Adam Driver plays his partner, Flip Zimmerman.

Among the film's producers are "Get Out" director Jordan Peele and "Get Out" producer Jason Blum of Blumhouse Productions.

range from the theme of suicide in "Thirteen Reasons Why" to profanity and sexual content in Alexie's book. James LaRue, who runs the library association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, said that future challenges could well be based on the authors themselves. Last year, Bill Cosby's "Little Bill Books" were on the ALA list because of multiple accusations of sexual assault against the actor-comedian.

"I personally believe the book is distinct from the author," LaRue said. "But when a librarian faces that kind of challenge, my advice is to treat it like any other kind of challenge. You look at the nature of the challenge, consider the context and make the decision based on the needs of the local community."

Over the past few months, several writers have had book deals and other projects canceled or have been kicked out of organizations. Asher was dropped by his literary agent and expelled from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Alexie ended up turning down one of the



library association's highest honors, the Carnegie Medal, which had been awarded for his memoir "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me." The prize was announced in early February, just before allegations surfaced that he had harassed numerous women.

The ALA list is part of the

association's State of America's Libraries report and marks the beginning of National Library Week, which runs through April 14. Books drawing attention, whether because of sales or a film adaptation, often become more likely to receive challenges. In 2017, "Thirteen Reasons Why" was

adapted into a popular Netflix series, while "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" has been widely read and taught since coming out a decade ago. In previous years, Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" and J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series have been

AP
This Monday, May 15, 2017, file photo illustration shows the book "Thirteen Reasons Why" in Phoenix.

among notable challenged works.

Asher and Alexie have been on the list before; "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" topped the list for 2014, while Alexie's book and "Thirteen Reasons Why" finished second and third, respectively, for 2012.

Books on the new list were a mix of older works such as Lee's novel (violence, racial language) and Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner" ("May lead to terrorism") and more recent books, including Cory Silverberg's "Sex is a Funny Word" and "I Am Jazz," by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings ("Gender identity"). Three works were cited for "LGBT content": the gay-themed penguin story "And Tango Makes Three," by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson; Alex Gino's "George"; and Raina Telgemeier's "Drama."

Not a rumor: Lindsey Buckingham, Fleetwood Mac part ways

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsey Buckingham will have to go his own way. The singer-guitarist is out of Fleetwood Mac.

The band said in a statement Monday that Buckingham will not be on their new tour. The announcement came in two terse sentences at the bottom of a long news release announcing the new concerts.

"Lindsey Buckingham will not be performing with the band on this tour," the statement said. "The band wishes Lindsey all the best."

He'll be jointly replaced by

Neil Finn of Crowded House and Mike Campbell of Tom Petty's Heartbreakers.

Buckingham joined the band with then-girlfriend Stevie Nicks in 1974 and the two became the central faces, voices and songwriters of the group for the four decades that followed.

Buckingham sang and either wrote or co-wrote hits like "Go Your Own Way," "Tusk," and "The Chain."

Buckingham left the band once before in 1987, returning for a tour in 1996 and remaining a steady member since.

No details were given on what led to the latest split. Buckingham's agent referred requests for comment back to a publicist for Fleetwood Mac, who said it wasn't yet clear how to reach Buckingham for a reaction.

The 68-year-old released an album and played a series of dates with the band's Christine McVie last year.

Fleetwood Mac used most of the news release announcing the departure to tout its two new members.

"We jammed with Mike and

Neil and the chemistry really worked and let the band realize that this is the right combination to go forward with in Fleetwood Mac style," Mick Fleetwood, the drummer who co-founded the band in 1967, said in the statement. "We know we have something new, yet it's got the unmistakable Mac sound."

Finn said the group contacted him only very recently, and he was stunned to suddenly find himself a member.

"Two weeks ago I received a wonderful invitation to be a part of a truly great band,"

Finn said in a statement. "A few days later I was standing in a room playing music with Fleetwood Mac. It felt fresh and exciting, so many great songs, a spectacular rhythm section and two of the greatest voices ever. Best of all, we sounded good together. It was a natural fit. I can't wait to play."

The two voices Finn refers to are those of Nicks and McVie, who will be on the tour along with fellow longtime members Fleetwood and John McVie.

Mom is rattled to learn son has started cross-dressing

DEAR ABBY: My son's girlfriend confided to me that my son, age 35, is cross-dressing. I knew his life was in flux and that his appearance had changed, but it stunned me. He hasn't mentioned anything, and she said he would be very upset if I knew.

When I saw him the same day, I made sure to hug him and tell him I love him. Please tell me what to do or say.

WHAT TO SAY IN TEXAS

DEAR WHAT: Do nothing, say nothing. This isn't your business, and the girlfriend was wrong to betray your son's confidence.

It may reassure you to know that cross-dressing has been around for centuries and has been present in many cultures. Your son isn't the only cross-dresser in the United States or even the state of Texas. Most male cross-dressers are heterosexual and do it because it feels good to them. It is no reflection on their morals, their sexual orientation or gender identity.

DEAR ABBY: I have a 6-year-old son, "Tyler," from a previous relationship. I have been dating a man I'll call Chad for almost four years.

My problem is, Chad can't seem to have any kind of relationship or interaction with Tyler. Chad isn't abusive, but he constantly ignores my boy and gives him no attention. I thought

after all this time Chad would be used to my son, but it hasn't happened. Sometimes he seems annoyed when Tyler is in the same room. I'm not sure if I should end the relationship or stick around. Any advice would be helpful.

LOSING HOPE

DEAR LOSING HOPE: Your first responsibility is to your son. The way Chad treats Tyler will eventually damage the boy's self-esteem if it hasn't already. Children are perceptive. When they are ignored, they know something is wrong and think it's their fault — that there's something wrong with them and that they don't measure up. My advice is to tell Chad the romance is over and why. Frankly, you should have done it years ago.

DEAR ABBY: I admit I'm a loud snorer. However, I was on a plane recently, flying home after an exhausting trip. I fell asleep and my seatmate repeatedly woke me to complain about my snoring. Shouldn't the woman have let me sleep in peace if she saw that I was genuinely tired? What made her needs greater than mine?

TRYING TO SLEEP

DEAR TRYING TO SLEEP: Not knowing the woman, it's hard to say. Perhaps your seatmate felt entitled to a qui-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



et flight and your snoring was so disruptive that, even with earphones, she could concentrate on nothing else. I suppose she could have asked the flight attendant to change her seat, but if the flight was fully booked she probably woke you because she wasn't inclined to suffer from coast to coast.

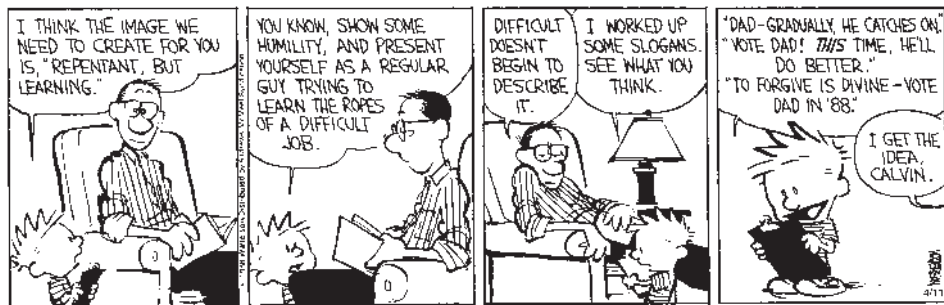
P.S. I would be remiss in my responsibility as an advice columnist if I didn't urge you to discuss your snoring with your doctor. It could be a symptom of sleep apnea, a condition that is very serious.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

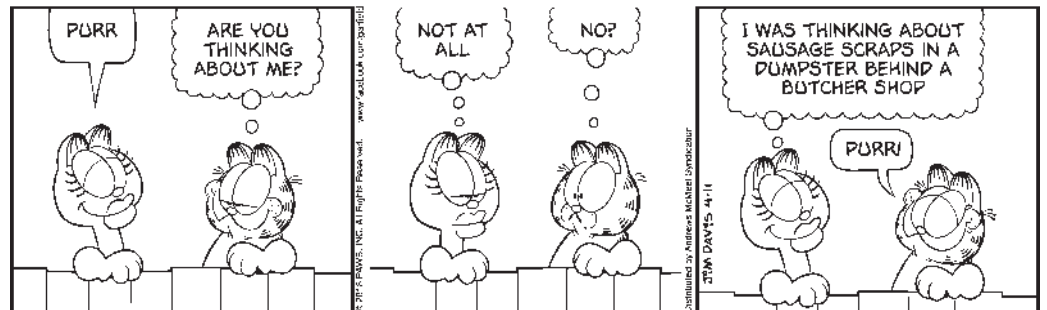
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dressed remark

5 Spider's home

8 Sci-fi fleet

12 Staffer

13 Spanish gold

14 Sty chow

15 Like ice-covered roads

17 Visibility hindrance

18 Cranial cavity

19 Tried to lose

21 Chat

24 Scrap

25 Optimistic

28 — uproar

30 Clean air org.

33 Early riser?

34 Con-siders

35 Tatter (Sp.)

36 Uncle

37 Dutch cheese

38 Combustible heap

DOWN

39 Sheepish

41 Active sort

43 Speak non-sense

46 Slander in print

50 "Got it"

51 Like a sequined ball

54 Grime

55 Part of MPH

56 Ashen

57 Utters

58 "Cer-tainly!"

59 Goes a-court-ing?

1 Mama —

2 Actress

3 Tennis score

4 Sheriff's helper

5 Travail

6 Mess up

7 "Cheers" barman

8 Theater

9 It'll get you

10 Leak

11 Raced

16 Unpaid TV ad

20 Charged bits

22 Fibbed

23 Work dough

25 Trio after Q

26 Gigi's "yes"

27 Elitism

29 Arsenal supply

31 Standard

32 Census stat

34 Bargain

38 Grooms carefully

40 Helps crooks

42 Stately tree

43 Auction actions

44 Nepal's continent

45 Catch sight of

47 Boyfriend

48 Perry's creator

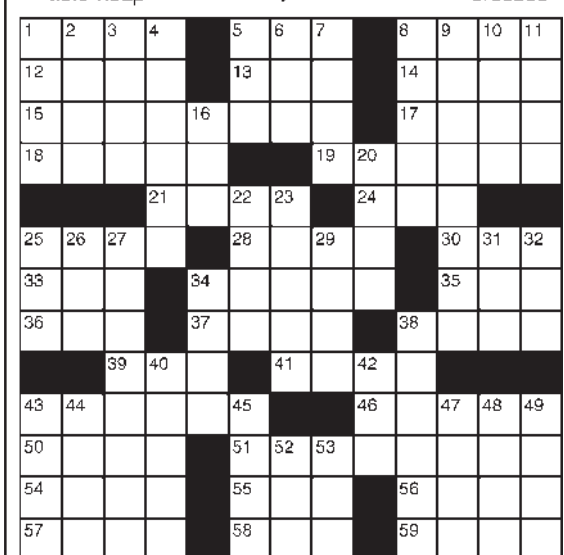
49 Caustic cleaners

52 Haw

53 Apr. addressee

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-11



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Will Tudor, 31; Lights, 31; Joss Stone, 31; Jennifer Esposito, 45.

Happy Birthday: Look for alternative ways to deal with personal finances, health and contracts. Know who and what you are up against and show no mercy when it comes to hanging on to what belongs to you. Your strength and courage will be remembered and respected. Personal gains will be yours if you remain calm and handle situations with diplomacy. Your numbers are 9, 13, 17, 27, 33, 39, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep life simple. Now is not the time to overreact, especially when dealing with a partner or someone you are working alongside. Limit how much you let others know about you and your personal life to avoid interference. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make personal changes, but do so secretly. Avoiding interference will make it easier to accomplish what you set out to do. An opportunity to reconnect with someone from your past will prove to be enlightening. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be tempted to make a change, but do so only if you are physically up for the challenge. Taking care of your health as well as your emotional state of mind will make a difference to how much you can achieve. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let temptation get to you. If someone is unpredictable, keep your distance, or you may end up being the one who has to clean up an emotional mess. Know your strengths and your

weaknesses before taking a risk. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A financial change looks promising. Go over pertinent personal papers and adjust documents, contracts or your tax return to ensure you get what you deserve. A career change or promotion will boost your income and your standard of living. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Gravitate toward people you find interesting and you'll be able to expand your mind. Your perspective regarding how you live or what you pursue in the future will change, offering unique options that will inspire you to try something new. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Strive to be insightful. Don't take anything or anyone for granted or allow others to take advantage of you. Set ground rules and be willing to negotiate and compromise when necessary. Focus on better health and less stress. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Offer something unique to someone special. A better understanding of the direction you plan to take in life will help you build a better relationship with someone who matters to you. Be willing to step up and make a vow. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't make decisions based on emotions. You can't count on outsiders to give you good advice. If someone tries to meddle in your affairs, walk away. Take your time, use your intelligence and make a move only when you are ready. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your emotions will fluctuate if you take part in an event that will bring you in contact with people from your past. Proceed with caution and refrain from letting temptation lead to an impulsive act that you will live to regret. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll find interesting opportunities, but before you take a leap of faith, think about the expense and what's entailed to reach your goal. Taking baby steps will help you make progress and avoid unnecessary mishaps. Don't overreact or overdo. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let anxiety lead to making an impulsive move without giving enough credence to the consequences. Trying to help someone may be a kind gesture, but before you jeopardize your reputation, find out exactly what it will take on your part. ★★

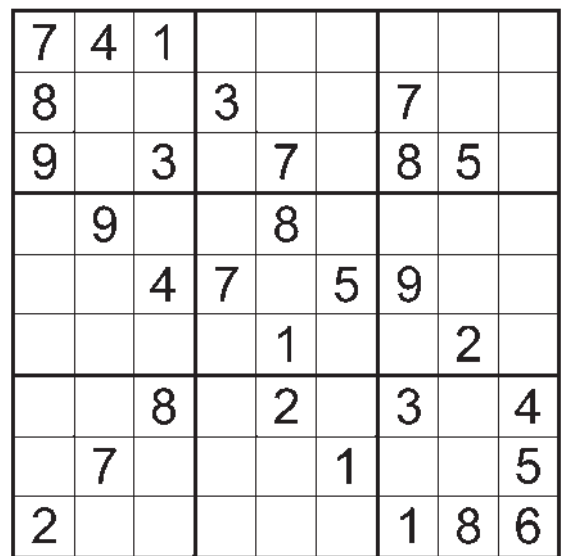
Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, energetic and classy. You are sophisticated and imaginative.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



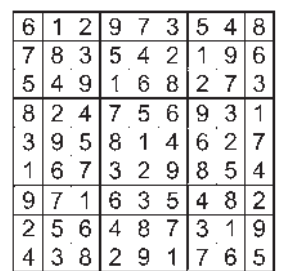
Difficulty Level ★★

4/11

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

4/11

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CUTS OF BEEF

Solution: 5 letters



©2012 Arcana Media Syndication www.wonderword.com 4/11

Barbecue, Base, Bite, Braise, Breed, Brisket, Broil, Bull, Butcher, Cartilage, Chop, Chuck, Clod, Cook, Cows, Cuts, Eye-of-Round, Grain, Grill, Hoof, Juicy, Lean, Leg, Muscle, Neck, Offal, Plate, Porterhouse, Primal, Rack, Rare, Raw, Ribeye, Ribs, Roast, Round Steak, Rump, Section, Shank, Sirloin, Skirt, Slice, Smoke, T-Bone, Tenderloin, Tongue, Tournedos, Tri Tip, Type

Yesterday's Answer: Dormitory

Treasures 13 through 32 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

**Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia,
Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333**

share the power
of a wish SM
with a wish
Saipan Tribune

Visit us at: **Make-A-Wish Guam**
590 South Marine Corps Drive, ITC Bldg, Suite 109 | Tamuning, GU 9691303507 | Tel: (670) 483-9474 | Email: info@guam.wish.org | www.guam.wish.org

For more information call Tel: 233-1388/1368

By: Black Bison Travel Corporation
PMB 538, Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan. Deadline to submit application will be Friday, April 20, 2018 at 4:00 pm. For more information please call 322-2222 ext. 302 for Tucker Baldwin, Chief Operations Officer, or send e-mails to tucker.baldwin@bccmni.com.

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

[illegible]

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

WHATZIT? 2020 8 www.whatzit.com
 distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndicator

Angels top Rangers, off to best start since 1987



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Mar-

tin Maldonado wasn't sure whether to slide head-first or feet-first after the throw beat him to home plate.

The Los Angeles Angels catcher got caught in between, and somehow managed to avoid the tag after dropping to both knees.

Albert Pujols hit his 616th career homer, Maldonado had two RBI singles along with his evasive scoring move and the Angels extended their best start in more than three decades with an 8-3 win at Texas on Monday night.

"Yeah, because I got stuck," Maldonado said, trying to explain what happened.

Home plate umpire Angel Hernandez was emphatic with his out call on the play in the sixth inning, but Maldonado immediately pointed to manager Mike Scioscia for a replay challenge.

"I wouldn't have believed it," Scioscia said. "But Martin did everything he could to avoid a tag and he got his hand in there."

Maldonado came home on Chris Young's double that ricocheted awkwardly off the wall down the left-field line and avoided the attempted tag by fellow catcher Robinson Chirinos, putting the Angels up 5-1.

The Angels are 8-3 for the first time since 1987, and fourth time in franchise history. Shohei Ohtani, the rookie two-way standout who was chosen AL Player of the Week, didn't play a day after striking



Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout, left, and Albert Pujols, right, celebrates Pujols' solo home run off Texas Rangers starting pitcher Doug Fister in the fourth inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas, Monday, April 9, 2018.

out 12 in seven scoreless innings against Oakland.

Nationals 2, Braves 0

In Washington, Max Scherzer stole the first base of his professional career and allowed only two singles in his fifth big league shutout, and the Nationals ended a five-game losing skid while getting back to .500 with a victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Scherzer struck out 10

and walked none in his ninth complete game in 299 major league starts.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, in his St. Louis debut, Greg Holland walked four batters in the 10th inning and forced home the go-ahead run.

The 32-year-old Holland, who tied for the NL lead with 41 saves for Colorado last season, was signed as a free agent on opening day. He pitched two in-

nings at Class A before joining the Cardinals earlier in the day.

Royals 10, Mariners 0

In Kansas City, Jakob Junis carried a no-hit bid into the seventh inning, Kansas City scored more runs than it had in its last six games combined.

Junis (2-0) hit three batters and walked two, but the quick-working right-hander did not allow a hit until Daniel Vogel-

bach's grounder up the middle with one out in the seventh.

Astros 2, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Justin Verlander struck out nine over seven dominant innings, and Carlos Correa had two hits and scored twice.

Verlander (2-0) was in control throughout on a chilly night with a first-pitch temperature of 35 degrees. The right-hander gave up three hits and walked one while helping the reigning World Series champions match their best 11-game start by going 9-2.

Mets 4, Marlins 2

In Miami, Noah Syndergaard allowed one earned run in six innings and New York won its sixth consecutive game to match the best start in team history.

The winning streak is the Mets' longest since September 2016, and they improved to 8-1.

Jeurys Familia escaped a jam to pitch a scoreless ninth and earn his fifth save, most in the majors.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Steve Pearce homered in a third successive game, Josh Donaldson tacked on a ninth-inning grand slam and Toronto beat Baltimore before 7,915 fans, the lowest paid crowd in Camden Yards history.

Gametime temperature was 44 degrees, and a slight mist made the conditions even more miserable. That contributed to a dubious attendance record at the 27-year-old ball-

park that had held since April 12, 2010, when 9,129 showed up for a game between the Orioles and Tampa Bay.

Diamondbacks 2, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Zack Godley pitched seven scoreless innings and Paul Goldschmidt had an RBI triple.

The Diamondbacks won for the sixth time in seven games and matched the best start in franchise history through 10 games. They're 8-2 for the first time since 2008.

Indians 2, Tigers 0

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber (1-1) struck out 13, pitching two-hit ball for eight innings and leading Cleveland in snow flurries.

The temperature at first pitch was 33 degrees, one above Progressive Field's record low set Sunday. There were flurries before the game and again in the seventh inning, resulted in a crowd of 9,843.

Phillies 6, Reds 5

In Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Nick Williams hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the eighth inning to lift Philadelphia.

Scott Kingery homered for the first time in his career, and Rhys Hoskins also went deep for the Phillies.

Tucker Barnhart hit a two-run homer for the Reds.

Padres 7, Rockies 6

In Denver, pitcher Clayton Richard homered into the second deck at Coors Field and San Diego weathered Carlos Gonzalez's disputed home run.

Richard connected for his third career homer as part of a five-run fourth inning, driving the first pitch he saw from Jon Gray (1-2) above the Rockies bullpen in right-center. Carlos Asuaje followed Richard with a home run.

Rays 5, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Mallex Smith matched a career high with four hits, Joey Wendle hit his first homer and Tampa Bay stopped an eight-game losing streak.

A bullpen that blew late leads in two of the three games at Boston last weekend got the job done after a shaky start by Chris Archer (1-0). Alex Colome escaped a second-and-third jam in the ninth by getting three straight groundouts, retiring Leury Garcia on a game-ending bouncer to first.

Luck expects to be better QB following long recovery



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Andrew Luck said all the right things Monday.

He feels good, hopes to be full go when training camp begins and believes he will be a better overall quarterback when he returns.

All he has to do now is prove it.

For the first time in more than three months, Luck fielded questions from local reporters about his surgically repaired right shoulder and explained his longer-than-expected recovery might have been at least partially the result of his desire to come back too quickly.

"I think I pushed a little too hard at times. Your body, as I'm learning, will tell you no at certain times and you just have to listen to it," Luck said as the Indianapolis Colts started their offseason work.

"I've gone and skipped steps before and paid for it.

Been in pain and not able to help the team. Embarrassed, guilty, whatever. I'm not going to do that again."

Luck didn't go into specifics about what he would, could or should have done differently after initially hurting the shoulder in September 2015.

He missed the next two games then made four straight starts before suffering a season-ending liver injury in November.

Luck opted against surgery that offseason and instead wound up signing a five-year, \$140 million contract extension.

In 2016, he started 15 games and had his best statistical season despite continued pain. But he hasn't taken a snap since having surgery for a partially torn labrum in January 2017, and he still isn't throwing regulation-sized footballs. He's been limited to working only with miniature footballs this offseason.

Still, it's progress. And it's a

far cry from last October when Luck's throwing regimen suddenly stopped because of continued shoulder soreness.

He spent the next month seeking additional medical opinions before moving his rehab to Europe.

Luck finally returned to the team facility in late December and has spent most of the past three months working out in California with noted quarterback experts Tom House and Adam Dedeaux.

The good news is Luck says he's feeling much more confident in his recovery.

"If I wasn't making progress, it would freak me out and we would have to change something. But I am," he said. "I'm feeling better."

The bad news: Fans have heard all this before.

Whenever Luck gets back, he will be working with a vastly different supporting cast.

New head coach Frank Reich will be calling the plays.

Running back Frank Gore and receiver Donte Moncrief left in free agency and receiver Phillip Dorsett was traded to New England for Jacoby Brissett, who started the final 15 games for Indy last season.

Luck might have a slightly different look, too.

"I wouldn't say I'm changing my throwing motion," he said. "And that's a big part of what I've been working on, making sure I'm using my body as effectively as possible to throw a football and not over- or under-compensate in any way."

Some of the Colts' newcomers, such as recently signed free agent Eric Ebron, chose Indy because they believe Luck will be better than ever.

"He was the reason I came here, to keep it honest," said Ebron, a tight end. "It doesn't matter as much where I played, I wanted a quarterback who would work with me the way that I knew I needed him to work with me."

Spurs, Pelicans, Thunder all in; 1 spot left in West



MIAMI (AP)—Paul George scored 27 points, Russell Westbrook got his 25th triple-double of the season and the Oklahoma City Thunder clinched a playoff spot with a 115-93 win over the Miami Heat on Monday night.

Westbrook finished with 23 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists for the Thunder, who were down 18 in the opening minutes before outscoring the Heat 39-12 in the fourth.

The 27-point margin was the third-worst for any quarter in Heat history, and the worst ever in a game at Miami.

Jerami Grant scored 17 points and Carmelo Anthony added 11 for Oklahoma City, which made 14 3-pointers.

Josh Richardson scored 18 points and Hassan Whiteside added 16 for the Heat, whose playoff seed won't be decided until the season-finales Wednesday. Justise Winslow and Tyler Johnson each scored 12 for Miami, and James Johnson added 11.

Pelicans 113, Clippers 100

In Los Angeles, Anthony Davis scored 28 points, Nikola Mirotic had a double-double and the Pelicans beat the Clippers to clinch their first playoff berth in three years.

Mirotic had 24 points and 16 rebounds in the Pelicans' fourth straight victory. It will be just their second playoff appearance in seven years and they made it without big man DeMarcus Cousins, who sustained a season-ending Achilles injury on Jan. 28.

Sindarius Thornwell scored 20 points off the bench, DeAndre Jordan had 15 rebounds and Montrezl Harrell added 15 points for the Clippers, who have lost three in a row while being eliminated from playoff contention.

Spurs 98, Kings 85

In San Antonio, Rudy Gay scored 18 points, Manu Ginobili had 17 and the Spurs rallied late to beat the Kings and clinch their 21st straight post-season appearance.

Sacramento, which was eliminated from the post-season on March 11, led by 14 points before being outscored 38-19 in the fourth quarter.

Reserves Gay, Ginobili and Bryn Forbes combined for 25 points in the fourth quarter. Forbes finished with 11 points total.

Willie Cauley-Stein led Sacramento with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Cavaliers 123, Knicks 109

In New York, LeBron James



had 26 points and 11 assists, Kevin Love scored 28 points, and the Cavaliers got their 50th win and another Central Division title by beating the Knicks.

The Cavaliers pulled within a half-game of Philadelphia for the No. 3 spot in the Eastern Conference, bouncing back from their loss to the 76ers on Friday and winning for the sixth time in seven games.

They reached 50 wins for the fourth time in four seasons since James returned from Miami and the 11th time in franchise history.

J.R. Smith and Jordan Clarkson added 16 points apiece for the Cavaliers, who made 19 3-pointers and won for the ninth straight time at Madison Square Garden.

Raptors 108, Pistons 98

In Detroit, Jonas Valanciunas scored 25 points, and the Raptors scored the first 13 points of the fourth quarter before holding on for a victory over the Pistons.

Detroit was without injured stars Andre Drummond and Blake Griffin for its home finale, but the Pistons still led by 17 in the first half. The margin was only three, however, at halftime, and Detroit managed only 38 points over the final two quarters.

Detroit is out of playoff contention, and Toronto had already wrapped up the top seed

in the Eastern Conference. The Raptors played without Fred VanVleet and Serge Ibaka.

Nets 114, Bulls 105

In New York, Allen Crabbe scored 20 of his career-high 41 points in the first quarter and the Nets beat the Bulls for their first three-game winning streak this season.

D'Angelo Russell had 21 points and 11 assists, and Spencer Dinwiddie scored 20 points for the Nets, who had not won three straight since April 1-4, 2017.

Former Net Sean Kilpatrick

was one of seven players for the Bulls to score in double figures, tallying 16 points. Cameron Payne had 15 for Chicago, which has lost its last three games.

Brooklyn hit 18 3-pointers in its first game since falling one shy of the NBA record with 24 in a rout of Chicago on Saturday.

Crabbe celebrated his 26th birthday by going 8 of 11 from deep Monday.

Timberwolves 113, Grizzlies 94

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns slammed his way to

24 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who toughed out a victory over the Grizzlies to move one step closer to a long-sought spot in the playoffs.

Jeff Teague added 24 points and Jimmy Butler scored 15 points for the Timberwolves, who trailed by 10 points early before taking over against a depleted Grizzlies team that beat them 101-93 exactly two weeks ago in one of their worst losses of the season. Towns had five dunks to help ignite the crowd.

Ben McLemore had 18 points for the Grizzlies, who

San Antonio Spurs forward Rudy Gay (22) is fouled by Sacramento Kings forward Jack Cooley, left, as he tries to score during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, April 9, 2018, in San Antonio. San Antonio won, 98-85.

moved one loss closer to a prime lottery pick.

Bucks 102, Magic 86

In Milwaukee, Shabazz Muhammad scored a season-high 22 points and helped spark a key third-quarter run, Eric Bledsoe had a triple-double and the Bucks beat the Magic.

The Bucks leapfrogged Miami for sixth in the Eastern Conference. The Heat lost to Oklahoma City on Monday.

Milwaukee won its second straight game without Giannis Antetokounmpo, who is resting a sore right ankle. Both victories came against 50-loss teams.

Nuggets 88, Trail Blazers 82

In Denver, Nikola Jokic posted his 10th triple-double of the season and the Nuggets kept their playoff hopes alive by rallying past the Trail Blazers.

The Nuggets have won a season-high six straight games and a seventh, on Wednesday night in Minnesota, would clinch their first playoff berth since 2012-13.

Jokic scored 15 points and pulled down a season-best 20 rebounds and had 11 assists. Will Barton added 22 points, leading a comeback from an 11-point third-quarter deficit.

The Trail Blazers, who lost for the fourth consecutive time, were in it until the very end, but Jusuf Nurkic, who had 20 points and 19 rebounds, missed one of two free throws with 47 seconds left and Jamaal Murray sank two free throws with 30 seconds left to put Denver ahead 84-80.

Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay agree on 2030 World Cup bid

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay say they have agreed on 12 cities where they would like to host the centenary World Cup in 2030.

The plan was announced on Monday by the Argentine Football Association.

Bidding is not due to open for another four years, but the leaders of all three national bodies say they want to make a joint bid.

The South American nations are expected to face tough competition for the hosting rights of a tournament that will likely feature 48 teams.

Uruguay staged the first World Cup in 1930 and has

long been expected to seek hosting rights with Argentina.

Meanwhile, after a career spanning six countries and countless titles both as a player and a coach, Fabio Capello announced his retirement on Monday.

The former AC Milan, Real Madrid, Roma and Juventus coach told RAI state radio that he is not interested in the open job with Italy's national team.

The 71-year-old Capello left as coach of Chinese club Jiangsu Suning last month only three matches into the season. He signed an 18-month contract with the Nanjing club in June 2017, helping the 2016 league run-

ner-up avoid relegation.

"I've already had experiences with the England and Russia national teams," Capello said. "I wanted to coach a club once more and Jiangsu was my last football job. I did everything that I wanted to. I'm pleased with what I did and now I'll enjoy being an analyst. You always win in that role."

Capello was most successful at Milan, guiding the Rossoneri to four Serie A titles and the 1994 Champions League trophy. He also won titles at Madrid and Roma, plus two Serie A titles at Juventus that were wiped out following the Calciopoli refereeing scandal.

Asked about Italy's failure

to qualify for the World Cup, Capello pointed to the lack of quality players.

"We coaches do well when we have top-level players," Capello said. "It's difficult to do well with mediocre players. And right now there are no top-level players. They lack leaders, players who make the difference."

Zenit St. Petersburg coach Roberto Mancini is among the top candidates for the Italy job.

"Mancini is an experienced manager who has traveled the world and that will help him relate to the players, but they lack talent," Capello said.

To develop more talent, Capello said Italy should follow Spain's model.



Mariners improve playoffs chances

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Mariners used a seven-run first inning in cruising to an 18-2 win over the Blue Jays in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The victory was the third straight for the Pat Tenorio-coached Mariners, who upped their record to 5-3 and in the process made the race for the last two playoff berths interesting.

The Mariners moved to fourth place ahead of the de-

fending champion Aces, as the latter dropped to 4-2 after a 14-11 setback against Titanium last Thursday. GSM, despite a 5-4 loss against the Chalan Kanoa Bears last Friday, is still on top with a 7-1 record, followed by the Bears' 6-1 slate, while last year's losing finalists Falcon are third at 5-2. Titanium, at 4-3, is also trying to earn a postseason ticket.

The playoff chances of the Falcons, Mariners, Aces, and Titanium will depend on the results of the remaining regular season games. The reigning



champs were playing GSM at press time.

The Mariners' Ton Tenorio drove in four runs and scored twice after going 3-for-4. He had a two-RBI triple in the Mariners' seven-run barrage at the bottom of the first. Younger brother Pat was perfect at the plate, 3-for-3, with two runs and three RBIs. Pat made a two-RBI single in the third. Jon Vil-lagomez, 2-for-3, made three runs and had two RBIs, while Nate Smith only went 1-for-2, but scored a run and

had two RBIs, including an infield-hit in the third.

Kainoa Wanket pitched a complete game for the Mariners, holding the Blue Jays to an 8-for-21 batting with one earned run, four strikeouts, and two walks.

Larson Sibetang and Noel Cabrera shared pitching duties for the Blue Jays and gave up seven earned runs on 12 hits with four strikeouts and four walks. The Blue Jays committed 12 errors with the Mariners converting them into four runs. The Blue Jays closed out the season at 3-6.

Ol'Aces, Genesis All-Stars pounce on foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Ol'Aces rolled to their fourth straight win, while the Genesis All-Stars got their first victory in the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

A 109-72 rout of the 670 Akkeri in the curtain-raiser in the men's division gave the league-leading Ol'Aces a 4-0 record, while the Genesis All-Stars recovered from a 0-2 start following a similar easy win over the Saints in the second match, 87-69.

The Ol'Aces' high-powered offense for the nth time was too much to handle for the 670

Akkeri, which faced an early double-digit deficit right after the first quarter. Preston Basa knocked in three triples late in the first period, while Douglas Schmidt provided the early spark for the Ol'Aces to lift their team to a 28-14 advantage.

The Ol'Aces went on to pad their lead as the one-sided match progressed with Freddie Pelisamen, Dan Barcinas, and Marvin Rabauliman also hitting their targets to join Schmidt and Basa on the list of Ol'Aces players who finished the game in double figures. Schmidt tallied 18 points, while Pelisamen chipped in 16, and Basa, Bar-



cinas, and Rabauliman logged 15, 13, and 12, respectively. Dixon Kwon led the winless 670 Akkeri (0-2) with his 18 markers.

In the second game the Genesis All-Stars also jumped the gun on the Saints to cruise to victory.

The Genesis All-Stars built a 20-9 lead behind its balance offense, while the Saints struggled early after making only four field goals in the first frame.

The Saints never recovered from thereon to drop to a 0-3 record.

First Game
Ol'Aces 109 — Schmidt

18, Pelisamen 16, Basa 15, Barcinas 13, Rabauliman 12, Blake 9, Sablan 8, Santos 7, Tadeo 5, Siech 4.

670 Akkeri 72 — Kwon 18, Pangelinan 11, Babauta 8, S. Teregeyo 6, D. Teregeyo 6, Lisua 4, Litulumar 4, Factor 4, Ogumoro 3, Aldan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-14, 56-35, 80-57, 109-72.

Second Game

Genesis All-Stars 87 — Viray 22, Kintz 16, Fitial 12, Quan 9, Itibus 7, Rangamar 5.

Saints 69 — Galarse 12, S. Deleon Guerrero, Ada 10, Kwon 9, Diaz 8, Palacios 7, J. Deleon Guerrero 4, Reyes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-19, 37-25, 56-44, 87-69.

LAST

From Page 28

be heading to Japan this fall to continue his study.

Since he had his 'Escape' farewell, the 17-year-old Akimaru can't help but reminisce about his debut in the SSC-organized event.

"I was 7 years old following my coach (Mike Stewart) through the swim. It was memorable since I was young and it was my first ever experience in the outer ocean. I was scared of the dark water at that time and since I was wearing a wet suit, I had so much chafing," the Marianas High School student said.

Akimaru was joined in the Top 3 by Villacrusis, who timed in at 37:00 and placed behind Jinnosuke (33:08) in last weekend's race. Villacrusis, who will leave for the U.S. this fall to go to college, treasures his last crossing with swimmers he considers his family.

"My last 'Escape' was really one to remember. The swim this year was rough due to the current, but it's something I got used to after doing this event six times. I honestly don't like long distance swimming, but my most memorable moment in the 'Escape' is getting to spend my time with the swim team. The hardest part about

leaving for college this fall is having to leave my family behind, including my SSC family," the Mt. Carmel School student said.

SSC coach Jacoby Winkfield commended both Akimaru and Villacrusis for excelling in open water swims.

"It was nice seeing the boys swim the 'Escape.' They have become excellent open water swimmers and hopefully they will be able to participate in open water swims in Japan and stateside," the SSC mentor said.

"The 'Escape' went well without any major problems. The weather system had left the area so conditions on the water were not that bad. We

have defiantly swum in worse conditions. There were 30 swimmers who made the crossing, with several first time participants (12) as well as several last time participants," he added.

Meanwhile, Jinju Thompson was the first female finisher in the crossing after checking in at 40:18, while 12 more swimmers completed the race under one hour.

SSC would like to thank the following for making the 'Escape from Managaha' a successful and safe event: DPS Boating Safety, Jomar Danas, World Resort and G4S life-guards, Eddie Johnson, Kristy Springer, Sean Frink, and Saipan Sea Ventures.

They apologized to me for missing a number of practices and I understand them," said Rangamar.

"That's their livelihood and their future so they need to prioritize that. I would really love to have them join us, especially Rabasto. That kid has a high basketball IQ and he knows when to shoot and when to pass the ball. Well, there's always the next Micro Games, they are still young," the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer added.

lot of good under 18 athletes this time and that is a good sign for the program," said Rangamar.

He was also disappointed for Prince Factor, Kelvin Fitial, and Sean Rabasto for not making it to the national team as they often had to skip practice and training sessions due to the conflict with their work and school schedules.

"I can't force them to skip work or their classes. It was really disappointing not to see them with the national team.

Free meal at Bubba Gump for KONQER registrants

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. will offer a free meal to those who will register for KONQER at its restaurant in Garapan tomorrow from 3pm to 6pm, according to KONQER president Kelli Wedd.

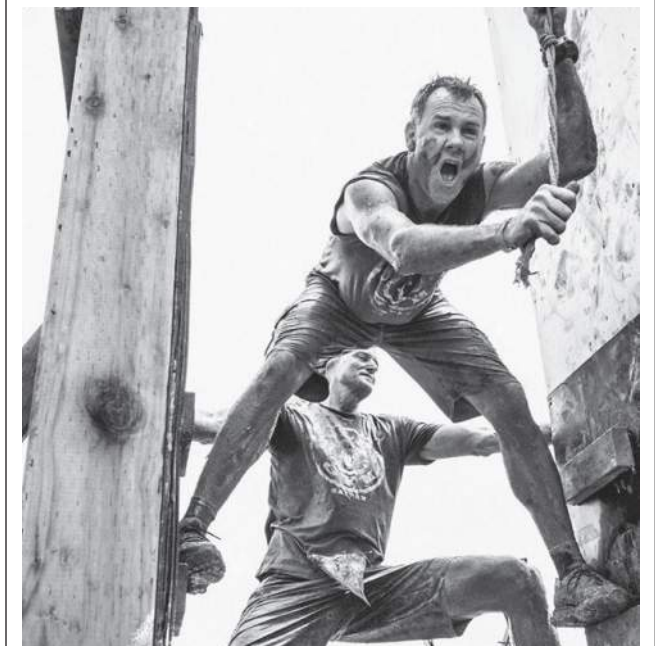


in advance.

"It's a pleasure to support the KONQER Obstacle Course Challenge and their mission to promote wellness through play within our community," said Triple J marketing manager Maria Valentina Haberman.

"We will host another opportunity for registration on April 19 at Great Harvest Bread Co. in Chalan Kanoa to encourage our island youth to register and participate in this fantastic event."

KONQER is presented by Marianas Visitors Authority and sponsored by Bank of Guam, IT&E, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, *Marianas Variety*, Saipan Brewing Company, Hertz, DR Constructors, Marianas Health, Island Hop, and Go Pro. For more information, visit konqersports.com. (PR)



KONQER SAIPAN
Russ Quinn tackles one of the obstacle courses in last year's KONQER Saipan at the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park.

LEE

From Page 28

When he was just 12 years old, Lee represented the Commonwealth in the IMG Junior World Championships held at the Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego, California and finished tied for No. 41 spot among the more than 100 participants. He was also a two-time champion in the 11-12 age group event in the Annual BMW Junior Open Championships held in Guam, winning it for the last time in 2016.

Lee said that he is not expecting much in the PAL junior golf, but would take every chance of having a respectable finish in the PH competition.

"It will all depend on the conditions of the course. I'll

take advantage of the practice rounds to study the layout and will also work on my short game. Hopefully I could make it to the Top 5," Lee added.

Joe Camacho, in a separate interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said he is excited for Lee as he again competes in an expected tough field. "We're looking forward for this trip. This is a good exposure for him."

The trio left Saipan Tuesday night and will stay for a few hours in Guam for their connecting flight to Manila today. Thursday is the practice round, while the tournament will open on Friday. Lee and Sebastian will be pitted against the PH's top junior golfers and other promising players from Asia, including those from Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam.

BASKETBALL

From Page 28

Northern Marianas Sports Association.

Rangamar, who will also be coaching the women's team in the Micro Games, said the final 12 was the result of close to two months and six-times a week practice sessions that involved court drills and strength and conditioning.

He added that he likes the team's chances in the Micro Games, which will be held

from July 15 to 27 at the Yap Sports Complex.

"I have a deeper bench this time compared to the last Micro Games (Pohnpei). We just need to work and train harder to prepare for the Games," the CNMI coach said.

Rangamar again advised players who missed the cut to practice more often to improve their skills and raise the level of their games.

"There were a lot of young players that tried out and did not make the cut. We have a

Hyatt Regency Saipan’s 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, right, joins, from left, co-tournament director Robin Sapong and winners Wei Bin Yu (C Flight), Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho (Senior), Motoko Onishi (Ladies), Edward Lee (Championship), and Takahashi Tsujimura (B Flight) for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the Hyatt Regency Saipan’s 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic last Saturday at the hotel’s pool side.



C Flight overall winner Wei Bin Yu poses with Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa after receiving his prize.



Ladies Flight champion Motoko Onishi, third left, is joined by, from left, third placer Mimi Salinas, left, runner-up Lorraine Babauta, and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa for a photo after the awards ceremony.



From left, C flight third placer Ryuji Oishi, runner-up Frank Castro, and champion Wei Bin Yu show their prizes handed by Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa.



Senior Flight champion Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho, center, poses with runner-up Nick Sablan, left, and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa.



Championship Flight winner Edward Lee is flanked by with runner-up Daryl Poe, left, and third placer Freddie Cataluna.



B Flight runner-up Albert Pajarillaga, center, joins third placer Sung Man Cho, left, and Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa for a group photo after the awards presentation.



From left, A Flight third placer Tim Goodwin, champ Takahashin Tsujimura, and runner-up Takeshi Nishiyama are all smiles after getting their prizes from Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa.



Angels top
Rangers, off
to best start
since 1987

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Spurs, Pelicans,
Thunder all in;
1 spot left in
West

PAGE 25



28 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Basketball team final roster out

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many-time national coach Elias Rangamar yesterday released the 12-man roster for the CNMI men's national basketball team that will be competing in the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap.

Lee to play in PH golf tourney

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Edward Lee left Saipan yesterday to compete in the 21st Philippine Airlines Junior Golf Association of the Philippines this weekend at the sprawling Pradera Verde Golf & Country Club in Lubao, Pampanga.

The 7,214-yard Pradera Verde, the lone golf course located at the village of Prado Siongco in the municipality of Lubao, will host the tournament from April 13 to 15.

Fellow CNMI junior golf-

er Sebastian Camacho and Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho joined Lee on the PH trip with the latter acting as their coach.

Lee, fresh from a successful title defense bid in last Saturday's Hyatt Regency Saipan 22nd Annual Charity Golf Classic, said he always looks forward to representing the CNMI in off-island competitions.

"I'm excited to go off-island again. It's always nice to represent the CNMI in international competitions," Lee told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview last Monday night.

See LEE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Douglas Schmidt, seen here driving against two players during a local league at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, is one of the 12 players named to the CNMI National Team that will compete in the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap.



The squad will be led by Dan Barcinas, Preston Basa, Jack Lizama, and Douglas Schmidt Jr., who also represented the Commonwealth in last year's Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu. Dean Blake, Coby Santos, Jeff Deleon Guerrero, Marvin Rabauliman, Aiferson Atan, Geno Libuw, N-Nes Siech, and Christian Mizer are the other members of the team. Mizer is the lone off-island player on the group, but is no stranger to the national squad, having played for the CNMI in the Micronesian Basketball Tournament several years ago.

The 12 were part of the 17 that made the first cut after the two-day open tryout held last February at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Completing the squad are Basa, John Santos, and Keith Nabors, who are part of Rangamar's coaching staff based on the latest report submitted by the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation to the

See BASKETBALL on
Page 26

Last 'Escape' for Villacrusis, Akimaru

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru and Christian Villacrusis did their last "Escape from Managaha," joining more than 20 swimmers in the 2.4-kilometer crossing from Saipan's famous island to Micro Beach last Saturday.

Akimaru went out with a bang, as he topped the race for the eighth straight year after completing the swim in 32:54—his fastest since he started braving the course when he was just seven years old. Akimaru registered 32:55 last year, while his other times were 33:25 (2016), 38:06 (2015), 36:50 (2014), 38:00 (2013), 38:09 (2012), and 40:04 (2011).

"My last 'Escape' was really fun. I had a little shark (Jinnosuke Suzuki) following me all the way. The water

was a little rough and the current was pushing us out to the channels. I didn't see much

of sea creatures but the water was pretty clear so I was able to see the bottom of the chan-

nels," said Akimaru, who will

See LAST on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis, fourth left, and Kento Akimaru, right pose for a photo with other swimmers after successfully making the cross from Managaha Island to Micro Beach during last Saturday's Escape from Managaha.



JON PEREZ

Edward Lee looks at the direction of his tee shot while competing in the final round of last year's Annual Club Lao Charity Golf Tournament on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.